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FBIS-LAT-89-139 *21 July 1989*

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Cuba

Marti Center Issues Statement Against TV Marti

FL2007165089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] A statement of condemnation against the anti-Cuban television station has been approved by art and culture personalities at the Center for Marti Studies.

The Cuban art and culture personalities expressed their condemnation against the imperialist desire to use the name of Jose Marti in propaganda maneuvers which are destined to slander our Revolution.

[Begin (Luis Toledo Sande) recording] We wish that other declarations such as this one were not necessary. We wish the imperialists would opt to get out of the traps to which their ambitions, stubbornness, and ignorance lead them, and that they would dismantle the radio and television creatures which will not leave any good results. In reality, we wish they had enough sense to drop, once and for all, their aggressive and interventionist policy, and their desire for hegemony. However, whatever their decision is, ours is, and will be: invariable revolutionary dignity. [end recording]

The statement was made public on the 2d anniversary of the founding of the Center for Marti Studies. It was read by its director, Comrade (Luis Toledo Sande).

[Begin (Luis Toledo Sande) recording] Let the imperialists know that we will support whatever measures the Cuban Government takes against their escalation of aggressions, and that we will never betray the conduct embodied in the oath with which all our nation expresses its firm decision for morals and struggle. [applause] [end recording]

When the event ended, the statement was unanimously approved and the participants signed the document.

Nicaraguan Ambassador on 10 Years of 'Victory'

FL2007211089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The 10 years of victory for Sandino's nation have not only meant a decade of struggle against the dirty war financed by the United States, they have also meant the construction of a new society.

Our reporter, Eva Luna, talked with Gustavo Moreno Gutierrez, Nicaraguan ambassador to Cuba, about this subject.

[Begin recording] [Luna] The triumph of the Sandinist revolution on 19 July 1979 not only meant a change of important significance for the new Nicaragua, it has meant this for all the nations of Latin America. This year, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of this victory and it is because of this that we are speaking today with Nicaraguan ambassador to Cuba, Mr Gustavo Moreno Gutierrez.

We would like you to tell us what these 10 years of victory have meant for the Sandinist people from an economic, political, and social perspective.

[Moreno] They have been 10 very hard years. They have meant.... [changes thought] Well, in the first place, on 19 July 1979—when the Sandinist front came into power to lead the Nicaraguan people—we decided to become sovereign, independent, and free. We knew that this had a price. Obviously, this price has been, so far, 59,800 victims. It has also cost us, in economic terms, $17.27 billion. For countries such as Nicaragua, a small country, these are truly exorbitant sums of money.

We dislike the aggression and we dislike all the damages this war, imposed on us by the U.S. Government, has caused us. We have had some modest achievements during these 10 years. We initiated a literacy campaign in which we educated 405,000 Nicaraguans. We have also initiated health campaigns.

The revolution dislikes the war, aggression, and this figure I mentioned. As I said, we have made many efforts and have only made modest achievements during these 10 years. [end recording]

Iraqi President Receives Jorge Risquet

FL2007173489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has received Jorge Risquet, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo. The meeting, which lasted 2 hours, took place in the presidential palace of the Iraqi capital and was held in the fraternal and friendly atmosphere that characterizes the relations between the two countries.

Risquet conveyed to President Husayn a warm greeting from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Husayn emphasized, with satisfaction, that on this 21st anniversary of the Iraqi revolution, his people, as well as the Cuban people, enjoy peace. He added that the two states are contributing to the processes for the cessation of the conflicts in the Middle East and southern Africa. During the meeting, common points of view were expressed on the struggle for detente and world peace.

Havana Notes Sentencing of Angolan Officers

FL2107023789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Today, the Angolan People's Revolutionary Tribunal condemned two Angolan ex-officers to death by firing squad. The men were accused of committing military espionage for the South African Secret Service.

Angolan radio stated that the these sentences were requested due to the crimes of espionage committed by Air Force Captain Humberto Campos Abrantes and his collaborator, Francisco Jose Jorge Setas Ferreira.

The men condemned to death supplied the South Africans with information relating to Angolan logistics and armaments.

The president of that African nation, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, is the person who will ratify or commute the sentences.

Vietnamese, Ghanaian, Lao Officials Arrive

FL2107015189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the SRV Council of State, arrived in Havana this afternoon. He is heading a delegation from his government. Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, welcomed the visitor who is making a stopover in Cuba while on his way back to his country.

The Vietnamese chairman arrived on a flight from Managua where he recently attended celebrations commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist victory.

While speaking to the press at the airport, the Vietnamese leader talked about the upcoming international conference to discuss the Kampuchean situation. This conference will be held in Paris on 30 July. Vo Chi Cong stated that Vietnam is in favor of reaching a peaceful solution in Kampuchea and that all his efforts will be put forth to that end.

Captain Kojo Tsikata, member of Ghana's Provisional National Defense Council, and Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of Laos' Supreme People's Assembly, also arrived in Cuba this afternoon.

Organization of African Unity Sends Message

FL2107021389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Today in Addis Ababa, the foreign minister of the Organization of African Unity, OAU, praised Cuba's military assistance to Angola with the purpose of safeguarding Angola's independence when threatened by South African aggression.

The OAU Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which is being held in the Ethiopian capital, decided to send a message to the Cuban authorities. This job was entrusted to Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira.

The document states that the OAU will always remember the sacrifices the Cuban people made in Africa. The ministerial meeting is preparing for the regional summit which will be held the first 3 days of next week [24-26 July].

UNESCO Director General To Visit 21 Jul

FL2007155589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Mr Francisco Mayor Zaragoza [name as heard], UNESCO director general, will pay an official visit to Cuba beginning next Friday [21 July].

During his stay in the country, the leader of the international organization will visit scientific, cultural, and educational institutions, as well as the Valley of Creativity [Valle de los Ingenios] and the historic area of Havana City, which was declared a patrimony of humanity by UNESCO.

Castro at ANPP on Advantages of Socialism

FL2007141189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Jul 89

[By Gisela Bel Heredia]

[Text] The only thing that can solve the problems of society is socialism, said Commander in Chief Fidel Castro during remarks he made at the Fifth Regular Session of the Third National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] which has concluded in the Palace of Conventions. The commander in chief referred to several programs developing in different spheres throughout the length and width of the country.

[Begin Castro recording] That is one advantage of socialism. The advantages of socialism are truly tremendous if one wants to take advantage of them. [pounds on table] I think that some of these programs that we have been mentioning—interest circles, schools, agromarkets, central markets [mercado concentrado], terminals—are all inconceivable in capitalism.

If socialism has all these advantages, then why not take advantage of them?

[Words indistinct] the plans that Lazaro [Lazaro Vazquez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, in Camaguey Province] is developing in Camaguey. Lazaro is principally responsible for those programs there, 60 cattle processing centers a year, 300 cattle processing centers in 5 years. He is also responsible for another 100 complete installations in Ternero and Novillas, as well as the towns in each of those cattle industry areas. He is also responsible for the roads, irrigation plans, genetic centers. How can all this be done in a capitalist system?

We have a [words indistinct] a number of capitalist mechanisms there without integrating the plans [words indistinct], plans of that type, plans such as the ones the people of Santiago de Cuba are carrying out in the pig industry. These are increases; these are not peasant free markets. The province of Santiago de Cuba alone will produce three times more pork than the entire national peasant market produced. [pounds on table] The pork has been produced economically with the use of food waste and sugarcane by-products. This can only be done in socialism. [end recording]

The assessment made by the chief of the Revolution proceeded reports by the provincial assemblies which reflected their principal investments. In reference to these, Fidel spoke with the presidents [as heard] of Pinar del Rio, Santiago de Cuba, and Havana City.

At the conclusion of their work, the deputies agreed that Santiago de Cuba and the Construction Material Industry Ministry should report back to the ANPP in December.

During their last day of work, the deputies also debated and approved the progress report given by the Supreme People's Tribunal, the Attorney General's Office, and the provincial assembly of Ciego de Avila Province. Other points on the ANPP agenda included the debate and approval of the Construction Ministry progress report, as well as the ratification of decree-laws and Council of State agreements.

Castro Inaugurates Social Projects in Havana

FL2007132189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, presided over the main ceremony inaugurating seven social projects in Havana City Province.

In the ceremony, Fidel awarded certificates to noted workers who labored in the construction of these aid centers. He also had an animated conversation with two of the workers.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] of five social projects and being declared distinguished in socialist emulation. [applause]

[Castro] We have to ask him how much wood he saves per cubic meter.
[Second unidentified speaker] We save as much as possible.

[Castro] How many times do you use the same wood?
[Third unidentified speaker] Sometimes we use it 8, 9, or 10 times, whatever is necessary.

[Castro] You use it 8, 9, or 10 times?
[Third speaker] Whatever is necessary.

[Castro] What do you do to save wood?

[Third speaker] We make planks.

[Castro] You make planks.
[Third speaker] Yes, we make planks and they can be used four, five, or six times. We use them a bunch of times.

[Castro] A bunch of times? It is not the same thing to use them 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 times as it is to use them 8, 9, or 10 times?
[Third speaker] You are right. They can be used many times.

[Castro] What if they are preserved with asphalt or something?
[Third speaker] We put putty on them.

[Castro] What is better, putty or putting asphalt on them?
[Third speaker] Something like that to protect them.

[Castro] How could we make them last 20 or 25 times?
[Third speaker] Commander, the planks will not last up to 20 times.

[Castro] But what if we preserve them?
[Third speaker] I do not think so. Perhaps they may last a little longer.

[Castro] If we use planks and preserve them they should last up to 20 times or [words indistinct]. [laughter]
[Third speaker] We could use the particle board fiber [premialitis].

[Castro] Particle board fiber? What is particle board fiber?
[Third speaker] It is that pressed fiber that we also use for furniture. It is a strong fiber and the concrete would never reach the wood. We would then take out one of those little cheap plates and replace it with another one.

[Castro] But It would protect it?
[Third speaker] Yes, it would.

[Castro] How many times would you use it?
[Third speaker] I would use it a million times, many times. [laughs]

[Castro] I like the sound of a million. [laughs] You know that our main problem now is saving wood?
[Third speaker] Yes, I know.

[Castro] This is what limits our construction.
[Third speaker] Yes, there is a scarcity of it.

[Castro] I know. We cannot multiply the wood, but we can multiply how many times we use it.
[Third speaker] There is scarcity everywhere. This is why we have to find ways of using things as much as possible.

[Castro] Do you know why materials are scarce?

[Third speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] No, that is not the reason. We are building too much. [laughs] You see, we are building so much, we do not have enough materials.
[Third speaker] Well, but we have to build them.

[Castro] This is why we have to save wood, especially wood. We can produce more cement, even though we still need to save this too, but wood we have to save more. We have to produce much more with the wood we already have.
[Third speaker] Doing what you said, we also save tacks, large quantities of them, because we only make the plank once. Then, we hold the planks with nails or screws and they last for a long time.

[Castro] People do not know how much it costs to build one of those buildings. When they see it finished, they think it is easy.
[Third speaker] Yes, everyone thinks it is easy, but you have to see it from the bottom when it is mud. I have been working 40-odd years in this type of work.

[Castro] Look at how pretty that building is. That is the one you made. Is that the [words indistinct]? It is very pretty. That one too, right? What is the difference between this one and that one? I am looking at this one from one angle and the other one from another angle. Are they similar?
[Third speaker] Yes, they are the same.

[Castro] They are two different projects. That shows that you can make different projects with the same system.
[Third speaker] Yes, it does.

[Castro] Very good, thank you. [applause] You have worked on 19 sugar harvests?
[Fourth unidentified speaker] Yes, sir I have.

[Castro] And you did some cutting in this last one?
[Fourth speaker] Yes, I cut in this one.

[Castro] But you finished the building before the cutting began?
[Fourth speaker] Yes, we finished in December.

[Castro] Yes, that must have been about 3 months?
[Fourth speaker] We finished one of these [buildings] in December and then we went to the harvest.

[Castro] Now you finished another in Santa Rita?
[Fourth speaker] We finished another in Santa Rita. We live around there. We are from that area. [applause] [end recording]

During his speech, our commander in chief said:

[Begin Castro recording] We can easily show why.... [changes thought] I think that these projects we are inaugurating today prove it. He was saying that we inaugurated six polyclinics and one senior citizens home. Today, we visited those six polyclinics, some of which were finished recently. Some of the other polyclinics were finished a few weeks ago and others were finished 2 or 3 months ago, some of them even more.

With these 6 polyclinics, as he was saying, we now have 9 of the 20 new polyclinics that are part of Havana's program. In this program, the comrade minibrigade members pledged to finish the remaining 11 polyclincs this year. I believe they will finish them. They may need a little support. We may need to guarantee that they receive the materials. No doubt, by the end of this year, we will have the 20 polyclinics we lacked. [end recording]

Tours New Polyclinics

FL2007144189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Prior to the main ceremony [celebrating the inauguration of the polyclinics in Havana], our commander in chief had inaugurated in our capital the 5 October Polyclinic in Playa Municipality. Fidel also inaugurated the Jose Antonio Cespedes Polyclinic in Arroyo Naranjo where he praised its physical therapy gymnasium and emphasized the need to continue to develop this kind of initiative.

Later, our commander in chief inaugurated the Hermanos Ruiz (Savoy) in San Miguel del Padron and Rafael Valdes Menendez in El Cotorro. The fifth health facility that Fidel visited was the Celia Sanchez Manduley home for the elderly in Habana del Este Municipality, where he also attended the inauguration of the Gregorio Valdes Polyclinic. Finally, he inaugurated the Wilfredo Santana Polyclinic in Guiteras neighborhood.

Raul Castro Attends Defense Preparedness Meeting

FL2007152489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], has presided over the meeting to analyze the country's preparedness for defense.

During the meeting, an analysis was made of the progress in the reforestation plan that is being carried out throughout the country. Present at the event were party and state leaders.

Rosa Elena Simeon, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, and Julian Rizo Alvarez, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, presented reports on hydrographic basins, soil erosion, and the Manati Plan [not further identified].

[Begin recording of Rizo Alvarez, identified by caption] It is necessary to act on methods which facilitate the presence of the masses so they can open up their endless source of creativity and ensure a commitment that can be concretely expressed, not only in planting, harvesting, and packaging, but also in survival. [end recording]

36th Anniversary Press Center Opens in Camaguey

FL2107124989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Good afternoon, television viewers. We now proceed with this first news report from Camaguey, headquarters of the national main event marking the 36th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks. These broadcasts from Camaguey will be carried daily on the 1300 and 2000 National Television Newscasts [NTV]. [passage omitted]

With the presence of Lazaro Vasquez, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and first secretary of the PCC in Camaguey, and Carlos Aldana, member of the PCC Secretariat, the national and international press center, which has been named 36th Anniversary, was inaugurated this morning here in Camaguey.

The center is located in the provincial PCC cadres school. About 320 national and foreign journalists have been accredited to cover the activities marking the 36th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks. The journalists will have the use of telex services, national and international phone lines, telefax and radiophoto equipment, a data bank service, and other installations to facilitate their press activities.

Over 150 Internationalists Return to Fatherland

FL2007222389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] After writing beautiful pages in their lives, over 150 internationalist combatants returned to the fatherland.

They returned last night from Angola after fulfilling their duties. Each of these men and women fought for the victory of our brother revolution. Now, after having returned to their beloved island, they can say that the warmth of their hearts and the fire of their brows was shared by the Angolan combatants.

Marti's pen wrote: For all Cubans whose origins come from the continent in which their skin is tanned by the sun, or from nations with a more gentle light, the Revolution in which they have fallen, without their color being noticed, will be equally just.

The principles of internationalism have always existed in the diary of the Cuban Revolution, and they always will.

Aguirre del Cristo Speaks

FL2007220889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo, Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government and member of the PCC Central Committee, and other officials have presided over the ceremony welcoming a new group of internationalists.

[Begin Aguirre del Cristo recording] Until recently, your battle was in Africa. Now, your battle is in Cuba. New tasks and new responsibilities—that should be fulfilled with the same dedication that led you to victory—await you now.

Dear comrade combatants, the fatherland receives you with open arms. I congratulate you for all your achievements. [end recording]

Carnival Goers Reminded Not To Bring Weapons

FL2007150889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1412 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] With the beginning today of the carnival festivities in the capital, the population is reminded that the use of any type of knives [armas blancas] or firearm is completely prohibited in the areas and zones around the festivities. An informational note says that those who have a valid license or belong to a certain armed institution are also prohibited from carrying firearms and can only carry their weapons when they have been assigned to the task of guaranteeing public order and have the authority to do so.

If these established guidelines are violated, those responsible will immediately be tried by the tribunals that will meet during carnival days. This also applies to those who carry sharp or blunt objects into the festival area or its proximity. The same rule will also apply throughout the rest of the country on the occasion of the traditional people's festivals.

Barbados

No-Confidence Motion Against Franklin Defeated

FL2107124189 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] The opposition's motion of no confidence against Agriculture Minister Warwick Franklin was defeated in Parliament. The 19 to 6 vote along party lines late Wednesday [19 July] ended 2 days of debate brought by the opposition National Democratic Party. They attributed the island's plummeting agricultural production to Mr Franklin's alleged incompetence.

Dominican Republic

* Central Bank Reports Continued Losses

32480181a Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] The Central Bank of the Republic ran up a deficit of about 400 million pesos in 1988. During the first quarter of 1989 the deficit was more than 115 million pesos, according to the profit and loss statement of the bank.

Technical officials of the bank contacted by editors of this newspaper said, after asking not to be identified, that in theory those deficits are covered by so-called "inorganic" pesos.

The accounts of the Central Bank show that in 1987 it recorded a deficit of 138.4 million pesos. During that period income totaled 268.2 million pesos, while outgo amounted to 367.6 million pesos.

In 1988, according to the same documents, income amounted to 291 million pesos, while expenditures or payments amounted to 623.9 million pesos. Consequently, the deficit came to 398.6 million pesos.

The tendency toward a deficit in 1989, according to the returns for the first quarter of the year, suggests that the financial imbalance in transactions and operations by the Central Bank will be greater than it was in 1988.

In effect, during the period from January to March 1989 the bank's deficit came to 115.8 million pesos. If that tendency continues for the rest of the year, the deficit could be greater than 400 million pesos.

The expenditure accounts which reflected the greatest growth in 1988, compared to 1987, were the costs of interest and commissions paid, which went up from 347.2 million pesos to 602.6 million pesos. The cost of notes issued went up from 392,000 pesos to 17.6 million pesos.

Under the heading of general costs a substantial increase was noted in the account dealing with fixed salaries. In effect, in 1987 13.3 million pesos were expended for this purpose, while 21.6 million pesos were spent in 1988. The difference is 8.3 million pesos.

During the first quarter of 1989 expenditures for interest payments and commissions continued their rising trend, totaling 166.1 million pesos, almost 50 million pesos above the total paid under this heading in the same period of 1988.

Expenditures for salaries also show a rising trend. In March 1988 the Central Bank paid out 1.8 million pesos in fixed salaries. In the same month of 1989 it paid 5.3 million pesos.

The cumulative increase in expenditures for salaries during the first quarter of 1988 was 4.8 million pesos.

* Italian Government To Donate $16 Million

32480181b Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Jun 89 p 3

[Text] The Italian Government will give the Dominican Republic $16 million which will be earmarked for Molinos Dominicanos [Dominican Mills] and the Fabrica de Aceite Ambar [Ambar Oil Factory], both state-owned enterprises.

This information was released on 23 June by Caonabo Javier Castillo, director general of the Dominican Corporation of State Enterprises [CORDE].

Castillo said that with this aid 250 tons of flour would be produced daily, while the oil factory will be able to increase production and lower the cost of edible oil.

Furthermore, the director general of CORDE supports transferring Molinos Dominicanos to the Institute of Price Stabilization (INESPRE).

Javier Castillo said that he is in favor of increasing production. He emphasized: "Production should be increased. To do that will require the participation of all citizens, because that is not only a task for the government."

He added that, "the country will lift itself up with the united efforts of all of us. Instead of complaints, solutions must be found, because life will not change except with greater production."

Javier Castillo indicated that many sectors have been "unjust" in dealing with production arrangements which the government has tried to implement.

He said that, "almost 1 billion pesos from the national budget are being devoted to agricultural production. We could do more, but what is being done now is already a great deal."

Speaking on another subject, he said that CORDE will provide cement at a low price. It is now being made in a laboratory.

At the same time he pointed out that as far as the Compania Dominicana de Aviacion [Dominican Aviation Company] is concerned, it has succeeded in reducing its debt to 7.5 million pesos from the 12 million pesos which it formerly owed.

Referring to the political situation, he stated that President Balaguer will be the candidate of the Christian Social Reformist Party.

He said that the party in power has many advantages over the opposition. However, he warned that its members cannot just take it easy. "Instead, the party must increase its efforts."

* 'Political Left' Calls CAMS 'Progovernment'

32480181c Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 29 Jun 89 p 10

[Article by Saul Pimentel: "Leftists Take Over Trade Union Troubles"]

[Text] The decision by eight central trade unions to establish a bloc parallel to the one which Virtudes Alvarez and Francisco Antonio Santos head has led to friction, not only in the organized trade union movement but also within the Dominican political left.

On 28 June the Dominican Communist Party (PCD), the Dominican People's Movement (MPD), the Patriotic Union (UPA), the United Left Movement (MIU), and the Dominican Workers Party (PTD) condemned the formation of this new bloc. They said that the government is behind that initiative.

However, the Socialist Bloc (BS) and the Dominican Workers Party (Jose Gonzalez Espinoso faction) welcomed the establishment of the new group and stated that, "It is the proper step to take toward greater and more efficient coordination of the national movement for workers' claims."

The Central Union of the Majority of the Workers (CTM), which is headed by Nelsida Marmolejos, a member of the Chamber of Deputies and leader of the Dominican Liberation Party, stated for its part that the decision to establish an "Autonomous Coordinating Board of the Trade Union Movement" [CAMS] was made by the eight central trade union organizations before the strike took place on 19 and 20 June."

The organizations which make up this "coordinating board" are the General Union of Dominican Workers (UGTD), the CTM, the Autonomous Confederation of Class Conscious Trade Unions (CASC), the General Central Trade Union of Workers (CGT), the Confederation of Dominican Workers (CNTD), the Unitary Central Trade Union of the Workers (CUT), the Central Trade Union of Class Conscious Workers (CTC), and the Central Trade Union of Dominican Laborers (COD).

In trade union and political circles the formation of this bloc has been regarded as a great "defeat" for the groups which organized the recent national strike. These groups are now preparing to hold protest meetings at the national level to pressure the government to satisfy a series of demands.

Consider Them Maneuvers

The PCD, the MPD, the UPA, the MIU, and the PTD stated in a joint declaration that the formation of this bloc is a "maneuver" sponsored by the CASC with the help of the CTM.

They add that due to "certain political influences" these two central trade union organizations have remained outside the framework of trade union unity and did not take part in the national strike. They now intend to gain control of the most perverted, collaborationist, or corrupt elements of the central trade union organizations which are a part of the general, coordinated effort.

They state that the apparent motivation for "this maneuver" is the need to bring together, one by one, the central trade union organizations and present their particular claims. They claim that this group has a tendency to negotiate with the government, also separately.

The CTM Statement

The CTM has stated that at a meeting held on 9 June at 1700 at the headquarters of the CGT it was agreed to establish the so-called "Coordinating Board of the Trade Union Movement."

The CTM pointed out that, "At the request of the CTM it was decided not to make that decision public at that time in order to avoid confusion, since there already was a group of organizations calling for the strike on 19 and 20 June."

It stated that it was agreed that once the strike was over this decision would be made public, "and that is what we, the central trade union organizations, have done. We made that agreement and we support it."

The CTM said: "If there are central trade union organizations which have regretted that decision to depend on the committees for the people's struggles, that is not the case with the CTM and its trade unions. We are not affiliated with precinct organizations, and for that reason the CTM has not delegated to anyone authority to represent it in discussions of the demands and claims of our affiliates and of our workers in general."

* 'Slash and Burn' Agriculture Threatens Ecology

32480181d Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Jun 89 p 2-C

[Text] "Slash and burn" agriculture is the activity which, in the view of Eleuterio Martinez, an agroforestry engineer, "is presently doing the most damage to national forests, due to the problem of land tenancy and the increase in demographic pressure on this resource."

In a report presented on 22 June to the "Urban Forum" he said that in referring to this practice as the direct cause of deforestation he was aware that it is carried on "principally by poor formers as their only means of subsistence. This practice affects an average of 8 to 10 acres per year per person."

He continued: "Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that there are landowners who can strip up to 2,000 acres per year."

Examples of this practice may be seen in Los Haitises National Park, where the farmers grow root crops and other, lesser fruits, while the landowners use the land for raising cattle.

He also mentioned the experience in 1985 and 1986 in the Sierra de Bahoruco. He said: "The farmers of Las Mercedes, Aguas Negras, and Los Arroyos (Vertiente Sur Province) cleared between 7 and 12 acres annually per person to raise subsistence crops, while elsewhere in Vertiente Norte National Park a single landowner cleared 2,300 acres of forest of pure Baitoa [a tropical hardwood] in order to use the land for the production of export crops."

"Slash and burn" agriculture and plantation agriculture (growing a single crop) "keep up the pace of clearing 175,000 to 200,000 acres annually. And this practice takes place both in primary as well as in secondary forests.

Eleuterio Martinez recommends that an adequate study of this kind of activity be carried out throughout the country, since this practice "keeps up the confrontation between the farmers who grow crops on mountain slopes and who now provide the Dominican people with most of their food and lesser fruits, and the forests, which are the natural component responsible for irrigated agriculture, raising livestock, and supplying water to human settlement in the country."

In "plantation or commercial agriculture," which is basically aimed at exports and the supply of the local market, since Operation Selva Negra in August 1986 the farmers are turning less to the forests and are reusing or preparing for cultivation "areas of fallow land or previously cultivated land which was abandoned or allowed to remain unused in the past. Forestry legislation allows the farmer to chop down all vegetation less than 4 or 5 years old but not to cut down full grown forest."

The process of deforestation in the mountains has moved down to the plains, to areas with better soil for agriculture with major projects for the production of citrus fruits and the cultivation of African palm, melons, pineapples, cotton, sorghum, tomatoes, and other vegetables promoted by companies involved in agroindustry. They require a high grade of mechanization and the total elimination of existing, natural vegetation (clean cut), for any tree in the middle of a cultivated field is an obstacle for the use of machinery.

Martinez denounced the fact that, in this respect, most of those projects have resulted in clearing and are intended to continue doing so, "forested areas of importance such as the regions of Bayaguana, Monteplata, Sabana Grande de Boya, El Valle, Sabana de la Mar, Hato Mayor, El Seybo, Azua, San Juan, Bani, Las Matas de Farfan, Santiago, Villa Vazquez, Guayubin, Mao, and La Isabela, among other places in the country.

Grenada

Blaize Fires Utilities, Security Ministers

FL2107122089 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has fired Public Utilities Minister Keith Mitchell and Minister of National Security Larry Joseph. Mr Blaize said he dismissed the two for violating what he called the cabinet's principle of collective responsibility.

The move had been expected for several weeks. Mr Blaize had refused to attend meetings of the executive of this party because of the presence of the two men. He objected to their support of the People's Revolutionary Government of the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Mr Blaize would neither confirm nor deny that he planned to launch a new party with elements of the New National Party which are still loyal to him.

Jamaica

Suppression of Crimes Act To Be Lifted 20 Jul

FL2007123989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1721 GMT 19 Jul 89

[By Julie Chen]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 19, CANA—The controversial 15-year-old Suppression of Crimes Act, which gave wide powers of search of arrest to police, is to be lifted on Thursday [20 July] in seven of Jamaica's 14 parishes, the government announced on Tuesday night. It will remain in force in Kingston and St Andrew parishes where crime is highest, Minister of National Security K.D. Knight told parliament on Wednesday night.

The act became law in March 1974 in what the then Michael Manley government described as a temporary measure to fight increasing crime and violence. It gave the security forces special powers of search and arrest including the right to search private property without a warrant. It also gave powers of arrest to the Army when working in conujunction with the police.

The parishes affected by the lifting are Manchester, St Elizabeth, Hanover, Trelawny, Portland, St Mary, and Westmoreland.

Knight said that the decision was based on the fact that the crime statistics in those parishes had fallen significantly. However, he warned of a re-introduction of the act if there were any increases in criminal activity in these areas.

The act will remain in force in Kingston, St Andrew, St Catherine, Clarendon, St James, St Thomas, and St Ann. The minister cited the high level of crime and lawlessnes in these areas.

Since Manley's Peoples National Party, PNP, assumed office again in February after a nine-year break, the crime statistics had been carefully reviewed to determine whether the act should be retained or abolished, Knight said.

The Suppression of Crimes Act has been widely criticised here by human rights groups, civic and professional organisations, and the bar association on the basis that it had outlived its usefulness and often led to abuses of citizens rights beyond the provision of the law by the security forces.

The bar association in calling for the abolition of the act said it allowed the police to keep suspects and detainees in custody for too long before they were brought before the courts.

Belize

Nation To Take Part in Refugee Program

FL1907141789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1949 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, July 18, CANA—Belize has agreed to take part in a U.S. 380 million dollar plan to provide social and other services for refugees in Central America, the government has announced here.

The plan was approved at a recent international conference on Central American refugees held in Guatemala City. The Belize Government had put forward proposals under the plan to obtain funds to assist refugees living here.

These proposals include the further development of the land resettlement programme at the Valley of Peace, for refugees and Belizeans, construction and upgrading of sanitation and safe-water supplies for other pocket settlements of regugees, and to improve the rural roads network.

The government estimates that the number of "registered" refugees in Belize is 5,100 but government ministers have said the figure is much higher. A report by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees says there are 25,000 "undocumented Central Americans, some of whom may be refugees" living in this country.

The Belize Rural Women's Association, in its quarterly magazine published in June, carried a commentary which says women refugees at the Valley of Peace project are in need of more health education, better delivery of primary health care, and more child health and child care programmes. The magazine says too much emphasis is being placed on "infrastructural development,' while there appears to be "hardly any concern for the human side of things..."

Costa Rica

Arias Says Bush To Attend President's Meeting

PA2107032889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0055 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] San Jose, 20 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—President Oscar Arias today said that U.S. President George Bush will attend the next meeting of the presidents of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal to be held in San Jose in late October.

Arias added: "I thought it was a joke, but it was President Bush who called me at home to tell me that he was very honored by the invitation and that he would attend the meeting."

On 26 June, Arias invited the presidents of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal to discuss topics such as the debt, development, democracy, disarmament, deforestation, and drugs.

The Costa Rican president noted that Bush called him after he ended his tour of Europe on Wednesday. Arias added that most of the presidents of this hemisphere have expressed their willingness to attend the meeting.

In his invitation, Arias reminded his colleagues: "The American Continent is tired of violence. On this continent, millions of human beings are anxiously waiting for a chance to rid themselves of misery and develop in a climate of democracy and freedom."

Finance Minister To Seek Debt Renegotiation

PA1907195689 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Costa Rica is again preparing to renegotiate its $1.6-billion debt with commercial banks. Financial officials will begin a new round of talks with international organizations and banks today. Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo will travel to Washington and New York, where he will meet with representatives of commercial banks and international financial institutions.

Costa Rica's financial officials will present a new proposal aimed at reducing our debt with commercial banks by 50 percent. The proposal, according to Minister Naranjo, has three options: First, to receive a significant discount in the new loan certificates and to get an endorsement from international organizations; second, to replace old loan certificates with new loan certificates at a lower value; and third, to exchange old loan certificates for new certificates with the same value but with different, below-market interest rates.

Even though our proposals have been disapproved by creditor banks on two previous occasions, the finance minister feels optimistic about the new round of talks. He said something important will be achieved because our country currently has several factors in its favor, and this will allow a renegotiation. The most important thing is that our country was the first to be selected by the Brady Plan. Also, it is supported by the IMF and the World Bank, and [words indistinct] and the resources that will reportedly be provided by the Japanese Government.

Our country has been been offered fresh resources to buy back its debt with commercial banks. An $15-million offer has been received from the IMF, which has opened a special account for this purpose. Costa Rica would also receive 25 percent of the resources resulting from the approval of a structural adjustment program, plus an additional $45 million that would be provided within a framework of guarantees on the interest rates. Likewise, the United States has offered $33 million for this special fund.

IDB To Finance Customs Modernization Program

PA1407192589 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Summary] Washington—The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] announced on 13 July that it has approved $914,000 to finance a technical cooperation

plan to strengthen Costa Rica's customs system. The IDB operation will help modernize Costa Rica's customs system and will simplify the administration of export contracts.

El Salvador

Cristiani Criticizes Nicaraguan Government

PA2107025289 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] While the Sandinists celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist People's Revolution in Nicaragua, some area governments are harshly criticizing the current situation in that country. Today President Alfredo Cristiani expressed his position.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has not allowed the installation of real democracy in Nicaragua, which the rest of Central America is struggling for. We want the Nicaraguan people to also enjoy the process of freedom. [end recording]

Over the past few months, the presidents of El Salvador and Nicaragua have confronted each other with serious accusations. Cristiani has accused Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega of helping the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] fight against the Salvadoran Government. The president said recently that during the upcoming summit to be held in Tela, Honduras, he would present proof against the Sandinist government. Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan president said that the summit is not the adequate forum for presenting the charges, and urged President Cristiani to approach the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] This could also be done; however, we understand that the summit is the result of the Esquipulas II agreement, which talks about meddling in other countries and supplying weapons to irregular forces in other countries. Therefore, it really is an appropriate forum.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cristiani] Well, obviously the evidence we have is circumstantial. The entire FMLN General Command practically lives in Nicaragua. They receive training there, and they have Radio Venceremos there. Captured FMLN guerrillas say they get their weapons from Nicaragua. They have Soviet-made weapons and ammunition that is not officially available here, therefore they must depend on foreign aid for their weapons and ammunition. We have found Cuban-made weapons here; therefore we assume they get their weapons through Nicaragua, just as those captured have confirmed. [end recording]

The outlook for the next summit seems bleak, according to some analysts. Nicaragua will be practically alone against the other governments of the area. Nicaragua has also had frequent border problems with Honduras over the past few years, which according to the Sandinists are because of the presence of the contras there.

Cristiani Condemns Shooting of Institute Leader

PA2007161889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Suspected urban guerrillas gunned down International Relations Institute Director Guillermo Payes this morning [19 July]. Payes, 38, was shot from behind and at close range with a .45-caliber pistol by two or three men as he was about to enter an office he visits regularly. After shooting him, the assailants fled in a brown Toyota with a tinted windshield, according to preliminary reports. A medical bulletin reported that following 6 hours of surgery, the patient's condition is delicate but stable. [passage omitted]

His mother, a writer, told this station that she forgives those who shot her son. She asked them to consider that nothing is resolved through violence and that many mothers want peace. [passage omitted]

Asked about the incident, President Alfredo Cristiani said that he deplores this latest act of violence and described it as another attack to silence the expression of ideas.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We think that it is a sign of great cowardice to try to silence ideas with violence and bullets. We condemn this. This is why we have been advocating dialogue, where there is room for an exchange of ideas, which should take the place of bullets. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cristiani Discusses Peace Process With Bishops

PA2007200489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani met privately for 2 hours with the Salvadoran bishops during a biannual meeting of the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference [CEDES], which took place on 19 July. The meeting's main topic was the dialogue to reach peace. Cristiani said that the church will probably be asked to mediate between the government dialogue commission and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. After the meeting, the CEDES president and Cristiani told reporters that they are pleased with their talks, which, they explained, might lead to a dialogue for peace.

[Begin recording] [Monsignor Marco Rene Revelo] Among other things, we discussed a dialogue for peace in our country. I personally can attest to President Cristiani's willingness to do his best to achieve peace in El Salvador.

[Cristiani] I said during the meeting that we regard the Catholic Church's role in the effort for peace as essential, necessary, and extremely valuable. Both the government and the church intend to make joint efforts to achieve peace in El Salvador. [end recording]

The details of the subjects discussed during the meeting have not yet been disclosed. The CEDES, however, is expected to make an announcement on 21 July, which could mean a positive step forward in the dialogue and negotiation process and could also reveal the church's role in the dialogue.

Armed Forces Raids Alleged FMLN Safe House

PA2107035089 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Report by Sandra Reyes]

[Text] Members of the Armed Forces Transmission Training Center still occupy the San Jacinto offices of the National Natural Disasters Relief Organization of El Salvador, [Union Nacional de Damnificados de El Salvador], UNADES. The soldiers captured at least 12 persons and seized a large quantity of medicines and some explosive devices, according to military sources. Colonel Benjamin Canjura, commander of CITFA [Armed Forces Telecommunications Training Center] said today that the raid was carried out after learning that the place was a guerrilla safe house. He said that once UNADES members saw the soldiers, they burned FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] propaganda. During the search, a communication radio and medicine for war wounded were seized. In addition, 12 persons, including one foreigner, who were inside the building, were arrested.

[Begin Canjura recording] I think this is an FMLN safe house for this area that operated using UNADES as a front. We learned that the guerrillas had been using the San Jacinto area to store logistical material. There was thought to be a safe house for storing weapons. We looked for it, since we had information about it. This is what happened. We conducted the raid. Medicines were found in this center. [end recording]

Soldiers remained at the UNADES building waiting for the group's leaders to come to explain about the medicines. Two persons who said they were UNADES employees were inside the building.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified UNADES employee] No, they are not [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[UNADES employee] To unload the cargo.

[Reporter] Where did the medicine come from?

[UNADES employee] [Words indistinct] came from Chalatenango. I do not know why, but it came to El Salvador.

[Reporter] For whom?

[UNADES employee] For homeless people. [end recording]

Col Canjura stated that his soldiers would continue to search the rebels' safe houses. He said that he had learned that the owners of many San Jacinto homes cooperate with the guerrillas. Canjura said that those arrested are charged with cooperating with the guerrillas. If the charges cannot be proven, they will be released.

'Heavy' Fighting Reported in Morazan

PA2007151889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Civilians reported to this station this morning that Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas have been fighting during the past few hours with Salvadoran Air Force Paratrooper Battalion units in the Perquin area, northern Morazan Department. According to the reports, fighting has been heavy, and four helicopter gunships and two A-37 planes have been seen overflying the area.

The guerrillas, through their clandestine station Radio Farabundo Marti, have reported that during the past few hours, two U.S. aircraft have entered Salvadoran airspace, which they consider one more violation of the national territory and sovereignty.

We have also received reports of heavy fighting in the Joateca area, Morazan Department, between 3d Infantry Brigade troops and FMLN guerrillas. According to reports from civilians and guerrillas, the guerrillas known as Pollito and Omar have been killed.

Two Rebels, One National Guard Member Killed

PA2007211389 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Two guerrillas and a National Guard member were killed in clashes during the past few hours.

Authorities have reported the death of Jose Fernando Lobos, who was killed in a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front ambush on the San Salvador volcano slopes last night. In addition, 3d Infantry Brigade sources have reported that two rebels were killed in armed actions near Meanguera, Morazan.

It has also been reported that urban guerrillas dynamited three telephone junction boxes near the central market in San Salvador. The explosions, which injured no one, left more than 3,000 people without telephone service, National Administration for Telecommunications sources said.

Guatemala

Cerezo Seeks Patience From Striking Employees

PA2107034089 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Jul 89 p 11

["Text" of speech to the nation by President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo delivered on 19 July over radio and television networks]

[Text] Dear Guatemalan friends: First I would like to address you because you must have read in the press that we have a problem with striking teachers and other government employees.

The teachers' strike has brought education to a halt for 1 and ½ months. The teachers are demanding a salary increase and, in a certain way, they are making use of a right granted by the Constituent Assembly of 1985, which basically represents the democracy that Guatemala enjoys.

We all have the right to ask about, demand, and voice our discontent with the government of the Republic's decisions. However, we have always insisted that we must obey the law and legal procedures, and respect the rights of others, because peace means respecting the rights of others.

For a long time we have said that democracy is a task that concerns all, and all must contribute so that democracy can continue to function. Ater 3 and ½ years, a democratic government has resulted in a reduction of political violence and has ended political repression; the government respects the trade unions; and we are adopting economic and political measures that benefit the country. Some say we have negatively affected some unions and some social sectors, while we have helped others. This, of course, is a topic of discussion that we will have to present to the people in the next national elections, and the people will chose the correct path for continuing democracy.

In general, we have insisted that the political and social decisions, respect for the law, and the behavior of citizens, all form basic parts in maintaining the democratic system. Therefore, for there to be respect for the law and the rights of others, and for a legal system to operate, we must all do something so that the system operates adequately. We must all make Guatemala a democratic nation where, the law will be respected, we can all coexist, and there will be possibilities for participating jointly for the benefit of the majority of Guatemalans. Democracy is, in fact, a task that concerns all.

As I stated earlier, we are currently experiencing a strike by teachers and other government employees. I want to refer specifically to the strikes because Guatemalans should know the government's point of view, the events, and the consequences of an attitude that could benefit or harm the national democracy we are all building. The teachers are on strike. The teachers have asked the government of the Republic for a 200-quetzal pay increase. The government of the Republic has told them that we cannot afford the increase because the budget does not allow it. We have also told the teachers they are part of the government, and perhaps the best paid workers of Guatemala, enjoying the greatest benefits, with less work and fewer demands from the commmunity and government. Therefore, we told them: Please wait. We are considering how to improve your economic situation. We have some proposals to make, but right now, we want to target benefits for other Guatemalans. You teachers, have a very important task, but like all other Guatemalans, you have been affected by the rising cost of living and inflation. You need an increase, but we must think of the majority of the Guatemalans and improve their revenue and create adequate living conditions. We must provide them with employment because there are still many Guatemalans who do not have jobs. In general, as the government of the Republic, we are a government of the people, and must place the interests of the majority first, above the interests of any particular group.

Therefore our answer was: "Right now we cannot make a proposal on improving your economic situation. You must be patient and give us time because we have to pay attention, first, to those who are enduring a more difficult situation than you. Once we improve their situation, we will work on your situation. You play a very important role in Guatemala."

However the teachers, and I am telling this to all the people of Guatemala so they will know, went on strike. We have been trying to decide for a long time, since the Constitution of 1985 went into effect, whether or not state employees should be entitled to go on strike. Truly democratic people, those of us who have always believed that unions have the right to make demands, and that all workers should be organized and demand improvements, respect, and protection, are of the opinion that Guatemalan state employees should be entitled to strike.

The people of the extreme right, the conservative people, who have always existed and opposed democracy in Guatemala, those who are opposed to the workers having any rights, opposed our position saying that giving state employees the right to strike would mean that they would not work and fulfill their responsibilities, make the state worthless, and weaken democracy. We told them that state employees are responsible people; they would exercise their rights in a responsible fashion, and fulfill their obligations to the Guatemalan people; teachers would teach; health workers would care for the ill; and all workers would do their jobs to benefit the people. They would not exercise their rights incorrectly because state employees know that it is the people of Guatemala who pay their salaries, and, therefore, we have the obligation to do our jobs.

During the 3 and ½ years that have passed since then, we have had many strikes. On many occasions, the government has sat down with the employees to discuss their demands and reached agreements. Until now, state employees have demonstrated a high degree of responsibility in exercising the right to strike that the Constitution grants them. They have not always followed all the procedures. Democracy is, afterall, the result of a learning process. However they have at least paid attention to us whenever we have called for talks and whenever we have asked them to consider the interests of the people; in most cases, we have resolved disputes between the employees and the state without problems.

We have always placed the interests of Guatemalans ahead of everything. We had believed that this attitude was going to prevail with the Public Education Ministry employees—the teachers. When we think of a teacher, we envisage a person who has guided us, and taught us how to read and write, a person who turns a child into a good citizen, and a person who puts the interests of his profession ahead of his personal interests. This time, however, this vision is mistaken as far as the teachers' leaders and many teachers go, because they have placed their personal interests ahead of the Guatemalan community. They want us to raise their salaries at the expense of halting construction of roads in the interior, and of creating an inflationary problem for private sector workers. They want a raise despite the fact that they are the best treated state employees and that a salary increase would result in a hike of staple prices, thus affecting the home budget and worsening the situation of the jobless, and despite the fact that children would go without an education. They want a salary increase because they want it; they claim that no one can defeat the teachers, and they overthrew General Ubico and created problems for, I do not know how many dictatorial regimes. They want a salary increase because they whimsically want it, even if it goes against the interests of the nation.

We have offered alternatives to them: a 300-quetzal increase next year, with an educational bonus payment, and an Institute for the Protection of Teachers so that they can purchase things at lower prices. We have tried to offer them all kinds of benefits, even if it negatively affects other workers. However the teachers could not care less. They want to impose their whim and will, and have gone against their mission and oath to protect the education of Guatemalan children, and to work with us to eliminate illiteracy and all the other flaws in Guatemalan education. They have gone to the extreme of creating trouble for Guatemalan citizens who want to get to work on time. They have even closed businesses and stoned Congress, which tried to mediate in the workers' favor. They broke windows, threw stones, set a door on fire, and are disrupting traffic everywhere. All of this for what reason? For the sake of their mission as teachers? In an effort to improve education? To try to make Guatemala a country devoid of illiterates, a country of educated people working for the nation's progress? No! They are doing this because they claim that no one beats them in a battle. They could care less about the interests of others. They could care less if this democratic government falls. All they want is to win a battle to increase their personal benefits. It does not matter if other people's cost of living is affected. It does not matter that teachers work less, much less than other state workers and workers in the private sector who earn more. It does not matter if school children miss classes for 1 and ½ months and that the school year could be lost. What matters is that they get what they want because the teachers' leaders can never lose a battle, even if this battle is won at the expense of the nation's interests. I am not addressing the Guatemalan people now. I am addressing teachers. You have cast a doubt on the right of state workers to strike, a right that cost Guatemalans so many years of struggle. If we lose this battle to protect the people's interests, the rightwingers—who have always persecuted you and denied you the right to form unions—will be proven correct because you have cast this doubt on the constitutional right that state employees have to strike. You are doing this solely on a whim, the whim to win a battle against the government.

Allow me to make clear to you that you are not fighting the government. You are fighting the Guatemalan people's interests. For this reason, at this time, workers, parents in the country's interior, and peasants who have been suffering because of these educational problems, are organizing to prevent your return to their schools and to demand that those who do return will carry out their responsibilities.

I am addressing you, gentlemen. I am addressing the leaders who are pressuring teachers not to go to work, who are not allowing them to fulfill their duties, who are doing great harm to democracy, who are putting the right to strike in question, and who are allowing the traditional rightwingers to take advantage of you and prove that they were right.

Do you know how I can prove to you which politicians are supporting you? By asking you this: Are you being backed by progressive politicians? Are they the politicians who have always thought of the workers' demands? Or are you being supported by members of political parties who repressed you in the past, who ordered your assassinations, who called you communists and made you suffer under dictatorial governments?

You are being supported by political leaders who want to put an end to this democratic state so that you will have no rights. If democratic governments and democratic parties were to lose the elections, those who are supporting you will be the ones who will expel you from the country. They will be the ones who will send you into exile. They will be the ones who will persecute you because they will show the people that you, the leaders of teachers and government employees, do not have enough awareness and responsibility to use your rights within a democracy.

If you wish to strike, you need legal authorization. If you wish to express your views—you have already done so before the people and were rightfully entitled to do that. If you wish to demonstrate, you can do that freely. However, you do not have the right to adversely affect the daily lives of the Guatemalan people; democracy is not libertinism, but respect for the law and respect for other people's rights means peace.

That is why I maintain, dear friends of the Guatemalan people and leaders of the teacher's movement, the movement that you have been whimsically supporting and promoting, while running counter to all democratic principles, is no longer a labor movement. I am convinced of this because there is information that confirms that the extreme right is financing you and that certain radical extreme left groups are guiding you to commit actions, such as the one you just carried out against the highest form of the people's representation, the Congress of the Republic.

You are being manipulated. The movement is out of your hands. The leaders and teachers are responsible for provoking a crisis, a crisis that seeks to destabilize a democratic regime. Above all, they are responsible for supporting unfair, illegitimate, and illegal actions that are, of course, against the interests of the Guatemalan people.

I warn you: You are making very grave mistakes against the democratic system; against the legal system; and especially against the rights achieved not only by you, but also by the people when the Constitution of the Republic was drafted in 1985.

Teachers are the best paid group within the government and I will give an example to the Guatemalan people:

A teacher who earns a good salary at this moment and has reached an important point of his career, earns more than 1,000 quetzals for working less than 4 hours per day for 9 months. In general, teachers at the lower end of the scale start earning at least 515 quetzals for working less than 5 hours per day. In certain villages, it has been reported that some teachers are working 3 days each week instead 5, arriving at 0900 and leaving at 1100, and that the students are not getting the education they should.

We have figured out that in a year, a teacher earns more than the majority of the professional people at Level III, including doctors who work fulltime and at night. Teachers might earn as much as 1,000 quetzals for working 693 hours per year during 9 months, an average of less than 4 hours per day.

So that all Guatemalans will know, teachers are working 17 hours per week, while most workers earning a minimum wage work at least 48 hours.

Therefore, teachers are better off than anyone else. They have little reason to make the requests they are making at this time, and they should accept the argument that the government has presented: First, we must improve the situation of others. We all have needs, but first we must improve the situation of the majority, before we improve the situation of those who are doing the best under the present circumstances.

Therefore, my dear friends: I sincerely tell you we are confronted with a national strike, but in a democracy, strikes are not a crisis. Strikes are normal, including the things that the strikers have been doing, such as blocking traffic, committing violations, breaking windows, and burning the doors of the Congress of the Republic, and attacking some deputies they will not allow to leave a building. They even used Molotov cocktails to cause various problems. This morning, a powerful bomb was defused in a building. The teachers are creating conditions so that radical groups will take advantage of the teachers' movement.

Dear Guatemalan people, I tell you sincerely that we are facing an unfair strike, which adversely affects all Guatemalans; affects education; and violates the most sacred principles of the profession because the interests of the community come before the individual's interest. Taking this into account, I would like to ask you: What is the duty of the government? The duty of the government is to preserve order, to send law breakers to court—that is what we will do—and to restore services to the community.

Therefore, Guatemalan education is currently limited, but next week we will begin hiring teachers to restore education throughout the country. We will also solve the problem of government offices not providing services.

That is our duty, to restore order, to provide services to the community, and to send those who violate the law to court.

What is the attitude of the Guatemalan people? What do I expect from the people of Guatemala at a time like this, when we are not in a crisis, but when we are facing illegitimate and unfair actions by a state union?

First, I ask the people of Guatemala to remain calm. If the traffic bothers you, go another way. The police will restore order in a few minutes. I ask the Guatemalan people to have faith and trust in the decision adopted by the government. I ask you to be understanding and supportive because democratic governments also need the support, trust, and affection of the people.

We ask you to remain calm, and to trust and support us. In addition, we need you to have a very important attitude: Parents must organize themselves and demand that teachers—and other government employees—meet their responsibilities. Just as political leaders ask for

police protection, we must demand that all government employees fulfill their responsibilities with the people because their salary comes from the people's money.

I have always said that we government employees are different from other employees. We are not against any private company where a person earning a lot of money may be asked to share his earnings and benefits with us. A job in the government is a profession of faith. We are here to serve the people of Guatemala and therefore, dear friends, making excessive demands is against the nation's and state's interests.

As for me, I am committed to the people of Guatemala, and I have to make them comply with the law. This means that employees who do not work, will not receive a salary; workers who violate the law will be prosecuted; and when there is disorder, we will restore order appropriately.

I ask the Guatemalan people to help me, to trust us, and to trust democracy. Democracy has enough strength to achieve things and to make people comply with the law. The people should be patient; this is all part of democracy. The people must support us now and they should organize themselves and demand that government employees meet their responsibilities, especially the teachers, who have violated all the principles of the world teaching profession, not to mention those of our country.

Therefore, dear friends, we are living in a difficult time, but that is normal in a democracy. Let us all fulfill our responsibilities, because democracy is really the duty of all.

Bomb Explodes Before Speech

PA2007125789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0646 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Jul (DPA)—Last night a powerful bomb destroyed the transmission towers of a television station and at least one radio station, spokesmen of Television Channel 7—which was the television station affected by the blast—told DPA.

According to initial reports, the bomb was set off on Alux mountain, approximately 20 km west of the Guatemalan capital. Most radio and television stations have transmission towers on that mountain because it towers over a vast area of Guatemala.

It has been learned that a man, who is believed to have been the watchman at Channel 7's tower, was killed by the bomb. The spokesmen said that rescue units sent to the site have yet to return to the capital.

The explosion was felt in several nearby communities and in a sector of Guatemala City. Channel 7 suddenly went off the air just as President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo was about to deliver a speech. Nevertheless, the speech was broadcast by the other four television channels that operate in Guatemala.

This terrorist action comes in the wake of a series of incidents that have occurred in the past few days as a result of strikes by teachers, post office workers, Finance Ministry employees, and other sectors demanding wage increases.

A bomb was found before it exploded in a bank in the afternoon of 19 July, and several anonymous callers warned about other terrorist bombs last night; however, these turned out to be false alarms.

Honduras

Guerrilla Group Explodes Bombs in Two Cities

PA2107025789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2031 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Jul (DPA)— With simultaneous bomb explosions in the Honduran capital and La Ceiba Port, located approximately 355 km from Tegucigalpa on the Atlantic Coast, a new guerrilla group calling itself the "9 May" People's Liberation Forces, FPL, announced its emergence as one of the armed organizations struggling for power.

Three bombs went off simultaneously in Tegucigalpa, one at the Central Park, another at the state-run University of Honduras, and another at a training school for teachers. At the same time, a bomb exploded at a university branch in La Ceiba.

All the blasts occurred at 1130 (local time). Only one person who happened to be passing by the Central Park in Tegucigalpa at the time of the explosion was wounded as a result of the blasts. A communique issued by the new group points out that "one does not weep for martyrs, but avenges them" and adds that "traitor Indians come before the invading gringos."

The proclamation criticizes the murder of popular leaders that took place in the country in early July and denounces other leftist labor and guerrilla organizations.

The Armed Forces, through its commander, General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, responded immediately by stating that "the only real communists left in the world are Hondurans, because they are changing in other countries" and are no longer exploding bombs.

The military leader asked people to attribute no importance to the incident and said that should the wave of political violence continue, leftist groups would have to be called to a dialogue to avoid other similar actions.

The "9 May" FPL proclamation was issued in the northern city of San Pedro Sula, 255 km from Tegucigalpa.

Organization Opposes U.S. 'Military Occupation'

PA2007224789 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Jul 89 p 44

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The People's Organizations Coordinating Committee (CCOP) and the United Federation of Honduran Workers (FUTH) charged yesterday that there is a terrorist plan to eliminate everyone who opposes the U.S. military occupation of the country.

In a news conference, the leaders of the organizations said that the death threats against labor and the people's leaders are included in this plan, which forms part of the U.S. policy toward Honduras.

Referring to the recent assassinations in San Pedro Sula, CCOP coordinator Juan Almendares Bonilla said that Honduras "is an occupied country where there is a U.S.-sponsored policy of terror that seeks to annihilate all the groups that protest the violation of national sovereignty."

He explained that there are various forms of terror. For example, he said armed groups arrive at houses at night and rape entire families. "These policies of terror have been used in Brazil, Chile, Vietnam, El Salvador, and Guatemala, among other countries," he said.

The former university rector said that this policy of terror, which has recently been intensified, tries to make people believe that there is a subversive cell that is destabilizing the country prior to the holding of the Central American presidential summit in Tela, Atlantida Department.

The people's leaders said that "the terrorism of the Honduran democratic state is also shown by an electoral process that is extensively controlled by the Agency for International Development and the execution of poor Hondurans by repressive forces that have been trained by U.S. experts."

They said the terrorism is also demostrated in the nonfulfillment of the Esquipulas II peace agreements, by a policy that capitulates to the IMF and the World Bank, the maintenance of extreme security, and the facilities given to the the contras and the U.S. Army.

After making the previous analysis, the FUTH and the CCOP asked the government to halt state terrorism and to bring to justice those responsible for the political crimes against the people's leaders. They also demanded that the peace agreements be respected, that the National Reconciliation Commission's report on repression be made known, and that the Nicaraguan contras be demobilized.

They also proposed that the state carry out a real policy of democratization with the people's participation in the face of pressure from the IMF, the World Bank, and the U.S. Embassy.

They also demanded that the government adopt a patriotic position so that the U.S. bases and the contras will be withdrawn from Honduras because they constitute a threat to peace in Central America.

The CCOP and the FUTH also announced that they have scheduled "a great march for national dignity" this afternoon to mark the heroic deeds of Lempira, the defender of national sovereignty and dignity.

The march will begin at 1600 at the Comayaguela Obelisk and end at Tegucigalpa's main square.

The demonstration will also demand the rejection of the IMF and World Bank's proposals, the expulsion of the Nicaraguan contras and respect for the Esquipulas II agreements.

Sandinist Mine Kills Peasant, Injures Others

PA2007214689 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 20 Jul 89 p 9

[Text] Danli—One peasant was killed and two others were seriously injured when a mine exploded in La Estrella community, El Porvenir, near the border. This has alarmed the residents of the area.

The dead peasant is 43-year-old Genaro Herrera Gonzalez, and the two injured men are 27-year-old Camilo Gonzalez Vallecillo and 14-year-old Genaro Herrera Rodezno. Herrera Rodezno, son of the dead peasant, has been admitted to the Gabriela Alvarado Hospital in Danli, and remains in serious condition after undergoing emergency surgery.

According to an account of the incident by Camilo Gonzalez, who has been admitted to the Medical Center in Danli, there had been no problems in the area. Gonzalez said that on Saturday they walked through the area and nothing happened; however, on Tuesday, on their way back from work, they stepped on a mine.

Gonzalez Vallecillo said that the Sandinists must have "planted the mines sometime between Sunday and Monday, because that area was clean. Also, the contras are no longer in that area; therefore, we cannot blame them."

Herrera Gonzalez was the father of six children. His family told LA TRIBUNA that 5 months ago a contra killed Herrera's niece by running her over with his car. This happened in downtown Danli.

We tried to contact the police to get more information concerning this incident, but we were told that the public relations official was not available. However, residents of El Porvenir said that the authorities had not visited

the site of the incident and called on the military to deactivate the mines along the border area. If they do not do this, our relatives will continue to die.

Nicaragua

Defense Ministry Says Contras Coerce Peasants

PA2007173889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman last night confirmed that counterrevolutionary forces brutally massacred 15 peasants who, when asked for whom they would vote, expressed their preference for the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and a total rejection of the rightist parties.

The peasants were massacred by the Somozist mercenaries during various operations in the 5th Region, where a plan drafted by the contras to frighten the peasants during the upcoming elections was discovered.

Part of the "Blue and White National Salvation Plan," calls for small groups of contras to pressure and threaten peasants into abstaining from voting for the FSLN, "or else their lives and the lives of their families will be endangered."

A Defense Ministry source said that during the 1st 6 months of the year, the contras have murdered 28 civilians—15 of which were murdered after the election process was announced—wounded 4, and kidnapped 85 others in the 5th Region.

The same source said that contra member Felix Matus, alias "El Chaparro," is currently directing the operation in northern Santo Tomas and in the Quilnica, La Bongolona, and El Jobo areas. Julian Canada, a former Somozist guardsman whose alias is "Mama Moncha," operates in the area south of Villa Sandino and is responsible for intimidating peasants in the Montes Verdes and La Frescura areas.

Other areas chosen by the contras for their operations in support of the ultrarightist parties are the northern area of Muelle de Los Bueyes, where operations are directed by "Chileno," "Tamacun," and "Dimas"; the area east of La Santo and El Coral, where operations are directed by Aquilino Perez, alias "Munita"; and south of Nueva Guinea, where Jose Maria Alvarado, alias "El Navegante," carries out the orders he receives from Washington.

To carry out this task—which is very important within the framework of U.S. strategy—top contra leaders have chosen a special group of people who, after being psychologically trained by the CIA in Honduras, have been infiltrated into the country to carry out their orders.

This is the case of the counterrevolutionary Rafael Brenes Mendoza, alias "Azegue," who was formerly the regional postal service coordinator. Brenes currently carries out political operations in support of the ultrarightist groups in the area north of Santo Domingo, Chontales.

The source revealed that the peasants have said that on many occasions, the contras have forced them to attend meetings, which are usually held in the afternoon or at night. During the meetings, the contras talk to them about the elections and tell them that they have to vote for the opposition candidate because, if they do not, the war will continue.

The source added that the contra directorate has informed the rebels that if they wish to obtain good results, they must treat the civilians kindly and pretend to be well disciplined. The contras have been told that if they do this, they will hamper the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] campaign to recruit contra sympathizers.

The Defense Ministry sources added that the contras have begun a reorganization process at the highest levels to make the people believe that they have broken with the political structure involving civic forces active in the country's interior. Their objective is to get former contra leaders, who recently returned to the country and who have joined the ultrarightist parties, to make efforts to consolidate the groups so that offensive action may be taken, depending on the results of the upcoming elections.

The source charged that top contra leaders have agreed that to counteract the FSLN's political and ideological activities, particularly in the 5th Region, it is necessary to directly contact leaders of the opposition and the specialized, so-called "control and training groups."

Even though the contras regard their ideological work with the peasants as a priority, they have not rejected the possibility of attacking fixed targets, such as cooperatives. In addition, the contras' plans include operations to locate Sandinist leaders to launch attacks against them.

UNO Issues Communique on Negotiations

PA2107030089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2147 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Managua, 20 July (DPA)—According to a communique issued today in Managua, the "Nicaraguan Resistance" (contras) wants to negotiate the demobilization of its troops in Honduras with Daniel Ortega's Sandinist administration.

The agreements signed in Guatemala City on 17 July, between the "National Opposition Union" (UNO) and the contras, indicated that they agreed to get together for

the upcoming February 1990 elections to confront the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) that has been in government for the past 10 years.

The contras stated their support for civic struggle, UNO's government program, as well as for the national dialogue recently accepted by Daniel Ortega's administration. The contras also indicated that they would not conduct "offensive military actions" against regular Sandinist forces.

The communique noted that the contras "are willing to reach an agreement with the Sandinist government under the conditions required for voluntary demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of its members and their relatives."

The agreement reached between UNO and the contras asserted that the rebels, through a top level military commission, would present a proposal that indicates the initial date for the program to the Central American presidents.

The contras' reaction comes after President Daniel Ortega stated in Costa Rica on 14 July that he would raise the topic of demobilization of the contras that are in camps in Honduras at the upcoming Central American presidents' summit. These contra members receive aid from the U.S. Government as approved by the U.S. Congress, Ortega added.

Ortega also demanded that the United States allow the Central American presidents to work on the peace process and the disbanding of the contras.

According to Daniel Ortega's administration, it is estimated that more than 4,000 anti-Sandinist rebels are in Honduras, from where they militarily attack Nicaragua.

Ortega himself has supplied information indicating that more than 1,000 persons have been victims of contra actions during 1989. The contras are active in the northern Nicaraguan mountains and in eastern Nicaragua.

The contra announcement was made today by an UNO spokesman during a news conference in Managua.

Miriam Arguello Criticizes Ortega's Speech

PA2007224189 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Interview with Dr Miriam Arguello, secretary general of the Popular Conservative Alliance party by unidentified reporter during "The Awakening" news program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Arguello] President Ortega's speech contained nothing special; the same rhetoric, everything is perfect under the Sandinist government. In Nicaragua, everything is fine, and we have a paradise here. We do not need more democracy here because we already have a perfect democracy. We had expected that at least a date would have been announced for the national dialogue, not a continuing insistance that there will not be a national dialogue until it is known what parties are to take part in the elections. The National Opposition Union [UNO] has spoken out very clearly on this and has issued a document stating its decision to take part in the elections provided the right conditions exist to guarantee fairness. We had hoped, at least, that the president would set a definite date for dialogue and then begin the discussions that are so vital for Nicaraguans; however, Ortega set no definite date.

As far as the rest is concerned, everything went as usual. Thousands of persons—according to the Sandinists—arrived voluntarily at the rally. However, I can say that I visited Granada yesterday and learned that workers at independent factories, such as those belonging to MONISA [expansion unknown], the Chamorros, and others were practically held in custody inside the factories the night before, so that they could not escape being at the plaza the following morning.

As I have said, this is just one example of how things are in Nicaragua. I, for one, believe that everything remains the same; the same old rhetoric, there is nothing to put right here because for them, everything is perfect. Speaking truthfully, it was a very disappointing speech.

[Reporter] We understand that UNO has an agenda ready for when the government decides to start the dialogue.

[Arguello] UNO has had its agenda ready for several months. UNO has already stated everything it believes is necessary for these upcoming elections, including such very important things as restructuring the Supreme Electoral Council. There are also regional matters, such as participation at the voting stations and other demands, which all Nicaraguans already know about because UNO has repeatedly spoken about them many times over several months.

[Reporter] We thank you, doctor, for taking part in "The Awakening" newscast.

Panama

'Source' Denies Noriega Negotiating Departure

PA2007180589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1708 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 20 Jul (DPA)—Today in Panama, a source close to General Manuel Antonio Noriega denied press reports that the commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces had gotten in touch with the U.S. State Department to negotiate his departure from that military institution.

"That is totally and absolutely false," the source said. The source also expressed support for the OAS' efforts "to achieve a negotiated solution to the Panamanian crisis among Panamanians, and excluding Washington."

The source also said that the OAS "is trying to prevent the Panamanian crisis from degenerating into a tragedy affecting the entire hemisphere."

Meanwhile, opposition leader Guillermo Endara denied that in the recent OAS-sponsored talks with the government and the military, the opposition agreed to form a government junta that would take office on 1 September.

"That is false, and it is hard for me to believe that the gentlemen of the OAS were the ones who said that, because I do not think that they are liars," Endara said.

Endara demanded that the report be clarified, adding that the opposition rejects the fact that "a group of 10 people in an air-conditioned office will choose three people to govern Panama, because that is a right that belongs only to the [Panamanian] people."

The opposition has not ruled out its possible withdrawal from the tripartite dialogue—which began on 16 July with the government and the military—because of the report leaked in Washington.

OAS Issues Resolution on Power Transfer

PA2107030489 Paris AFP in Spanish 2205 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Washington, 20 Jul (AFP)—The OAS, during a meeting of foreign ministers, today proposed a transfer of power to a provisional government on 1 September and made an urgent call for new elections in Panama at a later date.

The full text of the final declaration, as read by Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono, president of the consultation meeting, reads as follows:

"1. Resolution I of the 21st consultation meeting calls on the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago, under the assistance of OAS Secretary General, to urgently promote formulas for an agreement to achieve a national accord in Panama that will ensure the prompt transfer of power within democratic mechanisms.

"2. Under the auspices of the OAS mission, a negotiation process involving the Executive Branch, which includes the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], opposition parties, and the government was begun.

"3. At the first meeting, which took place on 15 and 16 July, all the parties adopted the following agenda that will be discussed within the dialogue and negotiation process in the most appropriate order to establish a national accord:

"A) Defining what each party understands by "transfer of power;"
"B) The 7 May elections;
"C) Removal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega as FDP commander and fulfillment of constitutional provisions;
"D) Violation of human rights and consitutional guarantees;
"E) External factors;
"F) An end to the U.S. aggression and military threat against Panama;
"G) Withdrawal of the additional U.S. troops in Panama;
"H) The end of the economic aggression;
"I) The unfreezing and return of Panamanian funds retained by the United States;
"J) Strict compliance with the spirit and letter of the Torrijos-Carter treaties by the United States.

"4. The organization expresses its support and recognizes the work of the OAS mission in fulfilling the mandate it was given.

"5. The organization notes that all parties involved in the tripartite dialogue 'expressed their gratitude to the OAS mission for its initiative.'

"In view of a request from the negotiating parties that the OAS 'maintain its assistance during the negotiation process' and in view of the points noted here, the mission is asked to assist the parties during the negotiation process to help them secure, via democratic means and in keeping with current Panamanian internal procedures, a transfer of power on 1 September 1989 and carry out free elections as soon as possible.

"6. The 21st consultation meeting, which will hold another session on 23 August 1989, will remain open. The mission is asked to keep the president (of the ministerial meeting) informed of any progress."

Interpretations of Resolution

PA2107032689 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2304 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The OAS plenary assembly has analyzed the results of the OAS Foreign Ministers Mission trying to contribute toward a solution to the Panamanian crisis. The OAS plenary session began yesterday with the presentation of a report on the tripartite dialogue initiated this past Sunday among the Panamanian Government, military sector, and opposition.

Today, the meeting of OAS foreign ministers asked the commission created to mediate in the Panamanian crisis to return to Panama to ensure the transfer of power on 1 September as well as the holding of free elections in the near future. This, basically, is the essence of a resolution approved this afternoon by the OAS foreign ministers without opposition from any delegation. This OAS assembly will be open until 23 August.

The voting to approve this document, a product of intense diplomatic work by all concerned and especially by the OAS assembly president, Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono, had been initially postponed, yesterday, to try to find, today, a way to keep the United States from opposing it.

According to various Latin American representatives, in the beginning, the United States agreed with the text of the resolution, but early this morning asked for more time to study the document and, although this has not been officially reported, to try to persuade the Panamanian opposition forces to accept the proposal that calls for new elections.

Early this afternoon, the resolution was approved. The resolution faced no opposition but, judging from speeches made afterwards by U.S. and Panamanian representatives, it has been subject to very different interpretations.

The resolution states that the OAS assembly has asked the commission to return to Panama to participate in the negotiation process. It also asks the mediating commission to help the parties to transfer power on 1 September and to hold free elections as soon as possible, and to do this by democratic means and based on Panamanian procedures now in effect. Based on this statement, U.S. Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said in his speech that on 23 August, the day the foreign ministers will be meeting again, the United States will hear the final report of the commission. Eagleburger said that the report should announce that the Panama crisis is over, that the transfer of power will take place on 1 September, that General Manuel Antonio Noriega will retire, and that the Panamanian people are on their way to becoming the masters of their own future.

The U.S. official said that U.S. President George Bush and the U.S. delegation believe that the OAS will satisfactorily resolve the Panama challenge and that it is obvious that the Panamanian people want to be free. In his opinion, the OAS commission report and the OAS resolution make it clear that Gen Noriega has to leave prior to the 1 September transfer of power and that democratic elections must be held as soon as possible.

The Panamanian delegation's interpretation of the same resolution was very different. Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said he is very pleased with the resolution. He said his country will make every effort to conduct the dialogue in a frank and cordial way. We have decided to make this effort despite grave U.S. threats of military intervention against Panama and daily violations of the canal treaties. Ritter said that while the OAS is sensibly seeking negotiated solutions to the Panamanian crisis, the United States is constantly intensifying its policy of military aggression and provocations. He said there will be no solution until there is an end to the U.S. military and economic aggression. In his opinion, the OAS resolution approved today has changed the situation because, until now, the United States had held the idea that the past elections in Panama could be reconstructed and that the time was near when the Panamanian opposition would be declared the winner. This doubt has been removed and the government to be installed in Panama will be installed through Panamanian laws and committed to holding new elections, Ritter said.

The parties will have to decide how power will be transferred. According to Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, member of the OAS commission, the three sectors involved should make that decision. The foreign ministers and representatives of delegations from other countries stated, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, their satisfaction with the resolution that has been approved. The delegations thanked Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono for his work. According to one of the participants, he tried everything. The delegations also thanked the special commission, which produced an excellent report.

Escobar on Government View

PA2107032089 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2316 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Interview with Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, representative of the Executive Branch at the national talks by unidentified reporters in Panama City on 20 July—recorded]

[Text] [Escobar] Concerning the OAS resolution, the Executive Branch reiterates—as the president said in a meeting we just held—the government stand is to reach a peaceful and democratic solution, particularly a solution among Panamanians and through Panamanian procedures, without any foreign intervention. This is how we view the OAS resolution.

[Reporter] What do you think of the OAS call for Panamanians to hold new elections?

[Escobar] It is one of the points that will be discussed at the dialogue commission. The dialogue commission already has a list of specific topics that were included in the OAS resolution. In addition, the method of discussion that is being followed and will be followed by the commission permits discussion of all the points that concern a solution for the Panamanian political problem. Regarding this, a call for new elections within a short period of time would have to be discussed by the commission, but only in general terms. A government would have to establish a date for the elections and work out all the details. It would not be a matter that is left up to the commission.

[Reporter] When will the dialogue be resumed?

[Escobar] No date has been set, but I imagine we will begin in a day or two.

Ritter on U.S. 'Aggression'

PA2007184889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Report on speech by Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter at the OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on 20 July]

[Text] By consensus, the OAS has agreed to extend the special commission's mandate to 30 August, so that it can try to find a formula of understanding between the Panamanian people. A resolution, approved at 1130 today, was later backed by the Latin American foreign ministers, who clearly delineated the role of the OAS, one of whose main purposes is to stress nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states. This is Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter speaking at the OAS headquarters in Washington:

[Begin Ritter recording] Mr Chairman, you have made a statement that includes several things upon which Panama wishes to comment. The statement acknowledges that a negotiation process has begun between the Panamanian Government, the opposition parties, and the progovernment coalition. The statement reports the agenda to which the three sides agreed, and the statement acknowledges the work performed by the special commission. The statement includes a request that the commission assist the parties in the negotiation process in light of the fact that the commission has successfully fulfilled its mandate.

The Panamanian Government hereby acknowledges the special commission's efforts to find a formula for understanding among Panamanians. My government believes that the dialogue that has begun should continue, which is what the parties desire and which is in accordance with the procedure they agreed upon. The Panamanian Government hereby declares that it will make every possible effort to ensure that this dialogue will be sincere and harmonious, and hopes that it will meet the intended objectives.

However, Mr Chairman, I wish to point out that we have decided to exert this effort despite the current serious threat of intervention against Panama and the daily violations of the Torrijos-Carter Panama Canal Treaties. As I have said before, these treaties were signed right here at the OAS headquarters. In addition, Panama wishes to reiterate to this organization that it has continued to be victimized by dangerous, constant U.S. military provocations. The international public is aware of this serious situation and the real possibility of a military intervention against our country—an intervention that would establish a precedent fatal to the OAS.

Panama therefore wishes to invite this organization to acknowledge that a serious threat of a military intervention looms over the country. Panama invites the OAS to reiterate the commitment of all Latin American states to the right to self-determination and the principle of nonintervention embodied in the UN and OAS Charters. Panama reiterates to the organization that while the OAS advocates during all its meetings a negotiated solution to the political crisis [in Panama], this U.S. policy of provocation has continued to be applied. This policy includes storming potable water plants in Panama and Colon, and militarily invading Gamboa—a civilian town—thereby violating international principles.

We want to emphasize that an overall solution includes the cessation of the military and economic aggression of which Panama is a victim. At the 6 June meeting, we reported this serious situation caused by the U.S. Army's actions. I must point out that, since that date, the number of actions similar to those which I have just described has increased, thus seriously endangering the Panamanian population. The deployment of military forces from bases on Panamanian territory has increased. Only the Panama Defense Forces' common sense and professionalism have prevented a confrontation. Several young U.S. soldiers have already been killed in exercises intended to terrorize the civilian population. These exercises have no basis in international law.

In addition, Panama has taken a balanced and mature step in its search for a solution. I hope that Panama can solve its problems. You can rest assured that Panama will rise to its historic destiny without the intervention of any foreign power. [end recording]

COLINA Candidate Reacts

PA2107032389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2335 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Ramon Sieiro, former COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] vice presidential candidate, praised the decision of the OAS to extend the foreign ministers' mediation mission for another month.

[Begin Sieiro recording] We have also reiterated the fact that in that dialogue we will be the last ones to quit. We repeat: We will remain in the dialogue until the problems of the Republic of Panama are given a Panamanian solution. Therefore, along that line of thought, we will continue to insist that we must sit down to find the best solution for Panama. At this time, any talk of a transition government would be tantamount to not recognizing the conclusion of the term of a government that was elected [as heard] to end on 1 September. Therefore, we want a transition government to begin on 1 September.

[Reporter] What is the government's attitude regarding the possible formation of a government junta and the opposition's rejection of this proposal?

[Sieiro] Well, we think that there is no alternative other than that of a junta of national reconstruction. We are pleased that the initial text of the Labor Party [PALA] proposal has been used. We proposed this as one of the three options. We were the first party that offered the

country the three alternatives, which in our opinion—in the opinion of PALA—were the best. One of them has been set forth, more or less, in the proposal of the nine [progovernment] parties. [end recording]

On the extension of the OAS mission mandate in our country, Sieiro said:

[Begin Siero recording] It is very realistic. It is the result, to a great extent, of the report submitted by the foreign ministers after they saw that we could not magically solve a problem, which greatly affects the Panamanian people, in 48 hours. We need a little more time and that is what they have requested. [end recording]

ADOC Reacts Negatively

PA2107024889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1940 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 20 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—In an official statement released today, the Panamanian opposition announced that the resolution approved by the OAS consultative meeting today "promotes" the violation of the Panamanian Constitution.

The statement—which was read by opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon [former Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADOC, first presidential candidate] in Washington and later released in Panama—contends that the OAS resolution "promotes situations that violate the national Constitution" because "the resolution lends itself to interpretations that do not foster respect for the Panamanian people's sovereign will."

The OAS approved a resolution today calling for a "transfer of power" in Panama and the holding of free elections "in the shortest possible time."

The opposition described the OAS resolution as "contradictory" and reiterated its "unyielding adherence" to the results of the 7 May elections, which ADOC feels it won.

The opposition asserts that the "transfer of power" to which the OAS refers calls for General Manuel Antonio Noriega to step down as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces. The opposition further asserts that, "in contrast with this," by calling for new elections, the OAS fails to respect the results of the 7 May elections.

According to the opposition, the extension granted to the OAS mission, which is mediating the Panamanian conflict, "makes it easier for Gen Noriega to continue using his delaying tactics."

Resolution Said 'Contradictory'

PA2107030289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Washington, 20 Jul (EFE)—The Panamanian opposition reaffirmed here today its "unyielding" loyalty to the confidence that Panamanians placed in it in the 7 May elections and termed the results of the OAS foreign ministers' session "contradictory."

After learning of the declaration approved at the OAS foreign ministers' meeting, Ricardo Arias Calderon, former candidate for first vice president in May elections, stated today that the Panamanian opposition will "ignore any suggestion to betray this loyalty."

He stressed: "Panamanians will continue the struggle for freedom, justice, and democracy until we put an end to the dictatorship, trusting in ourselves, those who show their effective solidarity with us, and God."

According to Arias Calderon, in its official report, the foreign ministers' mission "identified—for the first time and with absolute precision—the removal of General (Manuel Antonio) Noriega as the key to solving our country's crisis."

Arias said that the report also emphasized that "respect for human, civilian, and political rights must be restored and that true democracy must be implemented."

Furthermore, Arias noted that the delegations said that they approved the final declaration of Colombian Julio Londono, president of the OAS foreign ministers' meeting, "with the clear understanding that the transfer of power on 1 September requires the removal of Gen Noriega from the Panama Defense Forces command prior to that date."

However, in contrast, the declaration lends itself to interpretations that do not foster respect for the sacred human right to vote and the Panamanian people's sovereign will. Therefore, the OAS resolution "promotes situations that violate the national Constitution."

Arias added that "by dangerously extending the next foreign ministers' meeting to 23 August, the OAS is making it easier for Gen Noriega to continue using his stalling tactics and again impose on our people unjustifiable prolongation of pain, repression, and impoverishment."

Arias refused to comment on the possibility that the opposition would withdraw from the triparatite talks in Panama.

"A decision going one way or another will be made after Guillermo Endara (former presidential candidate) and Guillermo Ford (former candidate for second vice president) are informed about this in Panama," he concluded.

Arias Calderon on OAS Decisions

PA2107032189 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2350 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice presidential candidate for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) who is currently in Washington, by Julio Miller; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Arias Calderon] The decision on future relations between the ADOC and the OAS will depend on the joint decisions that are made once I return to Panama. We must remember that it will all depend on what the OAS ends up doing. Either they will end up paying attention to the official report, which precisely pointed out the need for General Manuel Antonio Noriega's departure, or they will end up paying attention to the weaknesses and incoherent statements of the final declaration.

[Miller] How do you explain the transfer of power being announced by the delegation of foreign ministers and the call for new elections in the shortest time possible. What will happen between now and 1 September?

[Arias Calderon] I believe the point that is most clear in the documents and especially in the minds of the foreign ministers is that on 1 September, power must be transferred from the hands of the dictatorship to where it should be, in the hands of democratic rulers. What is not clear—and I believe it is contradictory and incoherent—is the suggestion that was made for future elections; we are not sure how they will be related to the government that assumes power on 1 September.

Today the Panamanian Human Rights Committee filed charges before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission because of the violation of political rights of the Panamanian people and because of the illegal annulment of the Panamanian elections.

ADOC Spokesman on Resolution

PA2107031589 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2310 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] A communique that ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] simultaneously distributed in Panama and Washington was released by ADOC spokesman Anel Beliz. In this communique, the ADOC ticket announced its position concerning the resolution approved by the OAS today.

[Begin recording] [Beliz, in progress] In contrast to the report issued by the OAS, which is positive about its mission in Panama, the resolution lends itself to interpretations that do not foster respect for the sacred human right to vote and the Panamanian people's sovereign will, thus promoting situations that violate the national Constitution.

By dangerously extending the next consultative session to 23 August, General Noriega is allowed to continue his usual stalling tactics and, as a result of this, our people are again subjected to an unjustifiable prolongation of pain, repression, and impoverishment.

In view of these contradictory results, the members of the ADOC presidential ticket reaffirm their unyielding loyalty to the confidence that Panamanians placed in them in the 7 May elections. We will ignore any suggestion to betray this loyalty. Panamanians will maintain our struggle for freedom, justice, and democracy until we put an end to the dictatorship, trusting in ourselves, those who show their effective solidarity with us, and God.

This was signed and approved by President-elect Guillermo Endara.

[Reporter] Can this be interpreted as a categorical rejection to the resolution?

[Beliz] It is not a categorical rejection, but an expression of profound concern by the ADOC candidates for the result of this resolution. As you all know, the report rendered by the mission was very positive for Panama. It has very positive conclusions. However, Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon considers it a little contradictory.

[Reporter] Do you know if the tripartite dialogue will continue and when?

[Beliz] We do not know. The president-elect asked Arias Calderon to come to Panama as soon as possible to meet with all ADOC members to study the situation and the measures that will be taken.

[Reporter] I understand that ADOC members are already meeting with [former vice presidential candidate Guillermo] Ford and Endara.

[Beliz] President-elect Endara and Vice President-elect Ford have been meeting since yesterday. They have kept an open line to Arias Calderon in Washington. They have been speaking with Panamanian delegates and various foreign ministers so that the best for Panama will come out of all this.

[Reporter] When does ADOC expect the OAS mission to return?

[Beliz] We do not yet know. There are no reports about that. We are waiting for Arias to return and make a personal report to President-elect Endara about everything that has occurred at the OAS. [end recording]

Ford Gives ADOC Position

PA2107031789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2326 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Guillermo Ford, a leader of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC], today at noon repeated Guillermo Endara's statement rejecting juntas—little juntas and big juntas. Addressing members of the National Association of Insurance Companies, who hosted an event in his honor, he commented on the proposal for a transition government to take office on 1 September. He stated that ADOC was not going to yield and will redouble its efforts to achieve the democratic changes the country requires, with or without the OAS.

[Begin Ford recording] Now, in an attempt to remain in power, the easiest thing to do is to find unconstitutional formulas and arrangements, giving scraps to the people so that Endara and his running mates will begin to consider illegitimate self-interests to come up with formulas that disregard the Constitution, morals, and the mandate the people set for us on 7 May. We must rebuild the fatherland. All of us must participate in this task, as I said before, without hatred, and looking toward the future. However, we are not going to yield, and we are not going to deviate from the central points: total respect for human and constitutional rights; total respect for the self-determination of the people freely expressed on 7 May; the honorable departure—because we do not want to humiliate him—of Manuel Antonio Noriega from the Panama Defense Forces. This is our prayer to the Almighty. We will live in peace, not amid worry and uncertainty. We must plant good fruit to harvest them in the future; thank God we have good seeds. All of us will work together, not for the benefit of insurance companies, but for the benefit of the fatherland first.

As I asked Guillermo Endara, if it is possible and God and the people of Panama will it, the first decree he will issue will be to grant a total guarantee of constitutional and human rights; reopen the news media, never to be closed again; release convicts unfairly arrested; and bring back exiled persons. I dream—dreamer that I am—that on 1 September I will read the headlines of free and uncensored newspapers and watch television stations that can say the truth without being afraid of censorship. I want to congratulate the honest television stations, newspapers, and radio stations that exist despite the government's abuses. [end recording]

Media React To OAS Negotiations Process

Columnist on U.S. 'Meddling'

PA2007192189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Jul 89 p 4

["Political Arena" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua]

[Text] While writing this column, I realize that I still do not know the outcome of the OAS ministers meeting in Washington, where the commission established "to reach an agreement" will present its report on the task assigned to them. To date, they have only managed to bring to the negotiating table COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] and ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] leaders, and high-ranking Panama Defense Forces officers representing the Executive Branch.

To judge by reports received from Washington, we can clearly see that there are three positions or that three groups of countries have aligned themselves with certain attitudes toward the OAS. Everything seems to indicate, however, that most favor extending the mandate of the special delegation, which has tried to establish a dialogue and a solution among Panamanians. At the 21st OAS ministers' consultative meeting, one group completely follows Yankee orders; another group believes that the OAS should maintain its position of avoiding armed confrontation and of seeking a peaceful solution to existing differences (this group realizes that Panama's confrontation is with the United States); and a third group—unfortunately a minority—regards the only resolution approved thus far by the OAS concerning Panama as meddlesome.

We wish to warn the popular and patriotic forces—most of the Panamanian people—that there are Yankee puppets among the first group who wish to push for the formation of an "ad hoc" group composed of Uruguay, Venezuela, and the United States. This group would remain in Panama until 1 September, when the constitutional transfer of power is to take place. This was reported by Ary Moleon of the Associated Press, who is generally a well-informed man within Washington power circles.

If this initiative is put into effect, we should reject this outright—not only by word but by deeds. In principle, we cannot allow countries whose leaders have openly taken a meddlesome and interventionist position toward domestic matters that only concern Panama to stick their dirty noses in Panama.

Allowing the United States to join an OAS delegation in Panama, using as an excuse the necessity to appear civilized, would be the most stupid and absurd act in the history of diplomacy, particularly as it concerns a country that is struggling for its independence—much more so given the fact that our land is militarily occupied and under the permanent threat of an armed attack by the Yankee Army.

The only patriotic position left is to continue the dialogue among Panamanians. The dialogue's main goal should be the well-being of those who live here. There should be a demand for an end to economic and military aggression, respect for our laws and Constitution by other countries on this continent, an end to foreign meddling and pressure, and compliance with the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Will fat-ass [esteatopigio] Guillermo "Chuchungo" Endara [former ADOC presidential candidate] and his puppets, Arias Calderon and "Billy" Ford [former ADOC first and second vice presidential candidates, respectively], understand this position?

Editorial Praises Cordovez

PA1707204489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The Beginning of the Dialogue"]

[Text] The dialogue among the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA), the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), and the Executive Branch, which also includes the Panama Defense Forces, finally started yesterday. These talks were proposed by the OAS foreign ministers commission.

At the time we went to press, the participants had ended the first round of talks with an announcement stating that the dialogue was held in an atmosphere of "frankness in which each participant voiced his opinion on what topics should be addressed to find a solution to the Panamanian crisis."

The participants agreed to resume the dialogue at 0800 today. This dialogue has created much hope throughout the country, because the OAS commission is scheduled to return to its headquarters in Washington on 19 July, when it will present a report to the OAS foreign ministers on the results of its work. The commission is headed by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez and includes Guatemalan Foreign Minister Dr Mario Palencia and Trinidadian and Tobagan Foreign Minister Dr Sahadeo Basdeo. The commission is accompanied by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

At this time, we must underscore the wise statements made by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez to the international press. He said the OAS commission is by no means an electoral tribunal empowered to determine who will be the Republic's next president, much less to meddle in the country's domestic affairs. Otherwise, he said, it would be denying the very essence of Panama's right to self-determination and sovereignty.

The statements of the Ecuadoran foreign minister, who heads the OAS commission, are diametrically opposed to U.S. plans calling for the international organization's direct meddling in Panama's domestic affairs and advocating a solution in keeping with its hegemonic wishes to abrogate the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and keep its troops and military installations on our territory beyond the year 2000, when the ignominious presence of U.S. imperialism in our fatherland will end.

The dialogue that started yesterday must be based on the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of any state, because only Panamanians can overcome the impasse brought about by the annulment of the elections.

It should be clear from the very beginning of the dialogue that no one, neither the OAS nor the U.S. military, should assume the role of a Panamanian electoral tribunal to deal with a problem that is exclusively a Panamanian affair.

Area Democracies Lauded

PA1707223789 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO in Spanish 16 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Constructive Examples"]

[Text] Our knowledge of Latin American history tells us enough to understand to what extent our common origin determines situations and problems that repeatedly crop up throughout the continent. Despite the natural differences that exist, we have many points in common; we are so essentially similar that our big problems, as well as their solutions, can be traced back to a single origin.

For these reasons, it is no coincidence that in the political sector, there has been a sudden a wave of dictatorial regimes or military coups, followed by democratic rectification based on respect for the people's desires as expressed at the polls. Over the past few years, we have seen military dictatorships fall or deteriorate; currently, a few still remain directly or indirectly in power under grave and profound internal and external pressure.

In the economic sector, the claws of foreign debt are drawing down small as well as large [nations] in the same manner in which all countries—some more than others—fell into the mortal trap of irresponsibly contracting debts, taking advantage of likewise irresponsible credit that was offered in a type of international bid.

Truly constructive examples have been set according to the various situations. Mexico is facing its huge crisis with a social pact and a political opening. Venezuela is attaining alliances that equally benefit a large number of countries. Chile is heading toward democracy.

In the special case of Argentina, it recently demonstrated a great example of political and patriotic responsibility. After enduring various military regimes that plunged it toward economic disaster and moral trauma, Argentina is returning to the path of democracy. The government is turning power over to its adversaries several weeks ahead of the date established by law. The new [Argentine] president, a leader from a populist party—encouraged by the crisis—has urged his people to attain sound and responsible unity to serve the most needy. He is offering only sacrifice, work, and hope. This is another

very constructive example that could very well be followed by other governments or regimes that are still not heading toward democracy and great sacrifice for the benefit of the majority of the people.

Commentary on Followup Commission

PA1807220589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Council of State, which serves as a consulting organ for the president, yesterday formed a study and followup commission to consider the delicate situation in Panama. The commission must study and recommend actions to be taken at this time, when our country is being attacked on various fronts by the U.S. Government. Five organizations—the people's power, the Legislative Branch, the central government, the decentralized institutions, and the Panama Defense Forces—are represented in the commission.

Various proposals have been presented to cope with and resist the brutal aggression that victimizes the country. These proposals must be studied in detail to find and apply the most suitable solution without violating our integrity and principles of sovereignty. At this time, we must strengthen our faith and spirits and keep the permanent enemies of the Panamanian nation from confusing us and preventing us from seeing clearly through the serious proposals made for a patriotic solution.

For this reason, the decision to form a commission to carefully consider all proposals, including the one recently presented by nine political parties, is timely, now more than ever. Panama and its 2.5 million inhabitants cannot lose sight of the goal in this patriotic struggle. Past, present, and future generations will not forgive us for any hesitation in applying fundamental patriotic principles that support our firm position, bearing in mind that the homeland cannot be negotiated.

Current Dialogue 'Positive'

PA2007043589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The country's attention is centered this week on the dialogue being held by the national government with the Panama Defense Forces and the top opposition leaders, under the auspices of the OAS. It is logical that this type of negotation is progressing slowly in view of the magnitude of the topics to be broached. Therefore, it is inexplicable and even inopportune that there are persons who seek, one way or another, to accelerate things to achieve specific results soon. The dialogue initiated among the parties has already yielded an immediate, tangible benefit for the Panamanians. It has put a stop to the irreconcilable impasse to which the acute political conflict of the past few months was leading.

To sit down to talk to seek points of agreement speaks not only of political maturity, but also of the desire to set aside attitudes and to assume conciliatory positions so necessary to ensure peaceful coexistence in all societies.

Today, Panamanian society appears to be heading in that direction. Above all, we must be clear on what Panamanians should expect from the dialogue under way today. The responses obtained must seek to preserve the integrity of national sovereignty. That is, agreements must be achieved based on observing the highest interests of the nation so that there will not be the slightest trace of foreign meddling in our affairs. These solutions, consequently, must be eminently Panamanian so that they are practical and lasting.

Panama wants this dialogue to be based on recognition of the right that we nationals have to decide for ourselves. It must also contemplate the joint demand of the two parties that the United States end its hostilities toward our country and proceed as soon as possible to lift the unfair and illegal economic measures taken against our country. The end of U.S. hostilities would pave the way for an even more favorable climate for the domestic political talks. It would also permit gradually overcoming the economic calamities that are dramatically affecting the poorest sectors.

This means that the opposition sectors participating in the dialogue must act independently and in keeping with the best interests of the country, aside from the guidelines, interests, and orders of Washington. As the opposition breaks away from the U.S. influence and assumes the role that corresponds to it within a vigorous and participatory democracy, dialogue will acquire a truly national importance. This means that its leaders will speak on behalf of a sector of Panamanians who disagree with the constitutional government over matters of vital interest to the country. However, it also means that these same Panamanians observe a truly nationalist position, opposed by nature and principle to any foreign intervention in our domestic affairs.

If dialogue is carried out in this way, it will permit approaching criteria and views to reach formulas of consensus that will respond effectively to the expectations of all Panamanians. That is what it is all about.

Abadia Insists on Issues for Tripartite Agenda

PA1907020189 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] After evaluating the tripartite dialogue sponsored by the OAS, Civic Crusade coordinator Carlos Abadia stressed that any formula that does not include the authentic democratization of the country as soon as possible will not be accepted.

[Begin Abadia recording] The points that the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] has presented are the ones that are needed to achieve the democratization of the country. The points that COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] has presented are the same ones on which COLINA based its political campaign and do not include any of the country's immediate problems. The ADOC and the entire Panamanian people wholeheartedly agree that our national sovereignty must be respected and that the treaties must be respected. These are not the country's problems.

We believe that the points that the ADOC presented are the ones that can help us climb out of the situation in which we are currently mired. Those other points are not the true cause of Panama's problems.

I believe that whatever happens from this point on will depend on whether the agenda truly includes the points needed for the democratization of the country. I believe that if there is a real desire to pull the country out of the situation in which it is currently mired, these points could be discussed in a matter of a few hours. [end recording]

Kam Sends Letter to UN Security Council
PA1807225489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Jul 89 pp 1, A-5

[Letter from Permanent UN Representative Leonardo Kam, to the president of the UN Security Council]

[Text] Permanent Panamanian Mission to the United Nations;

12 July 1989

Mr President:

It is a privilege to address Your Excellency to inform the UN Security Council of a new U.S. military action against the Republic of Panama's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On the morning of Saturday 8 July 1989, U.S. Army troops in Panama entered Panamanian territory at Fort Amador with 25 armored tanks and 6 armored HMMV's escorted by 1 OH-58 helicopter, 1 Cobra helicopter, and 1 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. These forces occupied several streets, established offensive positions in front of the building that houses the Panama Canal Defense and Security Commission General Command—an area under the exclusive control of the Republic of Panama—and stationed themselves in military coordination areas, remaining at those positions for several hours until withdrawing via the Amador Highway.

The concentration of U.S. military troops and equipment in unauthorized areas of the Republic of Panama, the circulation of U.S. military convoys in areas beyond those authorized by the Panama Canal treaties without the required coordination with Panamanian authorities and the required Panamanian escort, and the overflying of military aircraft in Panamanian air space without the control and coordination established in the treaty, constitute violations of the letter and spirit of the Panama Canal Treaties, and harm the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I hereby inform the Security Council that the aforementioned incidents and those listed in my letter of 5 July 1989 to the secretary general (Security Council Document S/20719) concerning the temporary occupation by U.S. military forces of reverted areas in the Gamboa townsite and their occupation of the Institute of National Aqueducts and Sewers (IDAAN) facilities in Lago de Alajuela and the water treatment plant in Chilibre, are part of a policy of deliberate provocation and military intimidation by the U.S. Army against the Republic of Panama.

Incessant military harassment, constant shows of power, and permanent threats of direct aggression against Panama have become the U.S. Army's prime objective in Panama. The U.S. Army completely disregards the fact that its presence is authorized and clearly defined in the canal treaties as exclusively for the canal's protection and defense and, in no case, under no circumstance, and with no pretext should the U.S. Army adopt the role of aggressor against the Republic of Panama, impose U.S. hegemonic plans, be a source of pressure and political intimidation, or make any effort to influence Panama's internal affairs, because such action would violate the principle of nonintervention stipulated in the Panama Canal Treaty and confirmed by contemporary international law.

I reiterate to Your Excellency that my country has good reason to fear for its security, and I warn that the most recent U.S. military actions represent an escalation in the U.S. Government's plans to militarily intervene in Panama. Toward this end, I point out to you the recent statements made by General Marc Cisneros, chief of the U.S. Army South in Panama, to two international press agencies. Cisneros said that the "United States should impose a military solution" in Panama, that "the majority (of Army South) officers share his point of view, especially the troops" and that "most Americans would support an invasion."

These revealing statements by Gen Cisneros, in addition to various incidents and provocations, some of which were directed by Cisneros himself, prove that the United States is premeditatedly attempting to fabricate an incident to justify a direct armed invasion of Panama to the American people.

These provocations have proven unsuccessful thanks to the responsible and calm attitude displayed by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], which has the political maturity to fully understand the evil intentions concealed behind the U.S. Army's adventurous actions.

The U.S. military actions being carried out against my country and the statements by ranking officers of your Army, such as the ones cited previously, constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, which establishes the obligation that UN members refrain from resorting to the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

Again, we note that the constant U.S. provocations, arrogant policy of force, and disregard for the rules of international law that safeguard the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the republic of Panama seriously endanger international peace and security. We reiterate that the United States will be solely responsible for disrupting peace and security in the region, as a result of its aggressive actions against Panama.

Through your worthy office, we call on the U.S. Government to correct the mistaken course of its aggressive policy against Panama, to desist from its attempts to escalate tension between the two countries, and to adjust its conduct toward my country in keeping with the solemn commitments it agreed to when it signed and ratified the UN Charter. Among other principles, the member countries of the organization are committed to resolving their international controversies through peaceful means that do not endanger international peace and security.

I ask Your Excellency that this letter be urgently distributed to all UN member states as a Security Council document. I avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate to your excellency the assurances of my high and distinguished consideration.

Ambassador Leonardo A. Kam B., permanent representative

Noriega Addresses Youth Resistance Front Leaders

PA2107012189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Report on speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) at a meeting with Provincial Youth Resistance Front at Balboa Theater in Panama City on 19 Jul]

[Excerpts] "We believe it is necessary for our youths to start down a new path, which should be designed to get better knowledge of the national problems," Central Command of the Youth Resistance Front leader Luis Poiser pointed out in a critical, but sincere tone during the ceremony held yesterday at the Balboa Theater.

Delegations consisting of youth leaders from various regions of the country attended this ceremony. Also in attendance were FDP Commander in Chief Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega; the members of the General Staff; Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez, who represented President Manuel Solis Palma; and special guests. [passage omitted]

"We, Gen Noriega noted, pay with equal dignity and respect to the young patriots of yesterday, who have given us the inspiration so that this flag does not fall from the hands of those who have the historic responsibility of keeping it raised. [quotation marks as published]

Commander Noriega strongly emphasized that the oligarchic forces have taken revenge against the Panamanian youths.

The oligarchic forces attained a victory when they defeated the proposed educational reforms. They attained a victory when they eliminated from textbooks "the source of nationalistic inspiration. In other words, talking about the treaties, the U.S. invasions, the tenants struggle—which was a myth—and the January 1964 martyrs who have become a greater source of prestige and inspiration."

Commander Noriega added: "Today, no one talks about the January 1964 martyrs. No one mentions them because the January 1964 martyrs are the ones who will keep alive the struggle to recover our territory. Neither does anyone want to talk about the historic moment when Torrijos signed the treaties despite the many threats, but with knowledge, and sacrifices."

The oligarch's plan in education matters has produced some results because it has retained in the students the lies of the so-called teaching system in which the national and patriotic interest of the Republic are alien to the feelings and thoughts of every youth in the classrooms. The oligarchic forces in charge of handling the content of textbooks do not want a patriotic, nationalistic youth.

Gen Noriega warned that the intensification of the attack on education matters by the oligarchy is greater, and "is increasing in direct proportion to the time left before 1999, because they need worn-out youths who are alien to the problems you will face in 1999." [passage omitted]

In his speech, Noriega mentioned the youths' struggle and described what the new government could be like after 1 September.

He said that the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives is viewed as a political structure. However, this structure must be reviewed. The men who make it up must be reviewed "because many of those who hold positions within this Assembly have not fulfilled their duty and, consequently, have no right to continue representing us. But there are also many who have worked," Noriega concluded.

PRD Holds 'Honor Tribunal;' Expels Members

PA1907035089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] During a meeting at the PRD's pink house today, the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] agreed to expel members Luis Anderson, Luis Alberto Arias, Aristides Royo, Marcel Salamin, and Santiago Torrijos. Members of the PRD's Tribunal of Honor and Discipline unanimously approved the maximum punishment for these party members.

Baltazar Aizpurua and Rogelio Sanchez Tack, the party's honorary prosecutors [fiscales de honor] presented the charges, based on a request from the Political Commission which called for this trial. Crispulo Glotau, Gilberto Anino, Virgilio Crespo, Anel Beliz Geneteau, and Omar Nunez were the defense lawyers appointed by the tribunal in view of the defendants' absence. Alberto Luis Tunon, president of the Tribunal of Honor and Discipline, explained the reasons for the expulsion of these party members.

[Begin Tunon recording] The reasons for their expulsion are prescribed in Article 86 of the party by-laws: a. political complicity with party adversaries; and d. engaging in public actions that are openly against the party's principles, platform, by-laws, and basic interests or the guidelines approved by the PRD National Congress, the National Board of Directors, or the Political Commission.

However, I want to note that the tribunal decided to issue a separate resolution for each individual. In the specific cases of Arias and Salamin, these resolutions will be harsher because it is felt that, of the five defendants, these two party members... [changes thought] Salamin was our ambassador in Venezuela and is now an adviser to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. [end recording]

Concerning the meaning of the trial for the other PRD leaders and party members, Tunon said:

[Begin Tunon recording] We describe this trial as a historic trial because it is being held within the framework of a brutal U.S. Government aggression, which our country has been experiencing for almost 2 years. The actions of these party members are closely linked to this aggression. Our party's rank and file have been following this trial very closely because another trial is pending. It was also requested by the Political Commission. Approximately 25 members will also be tried, they are being accused of having been nominated for public posts by parties other than the PRD.

Consequently, we feel that part of what was discussed today is closely related to future punishment to be applied to those 25 party members. [end recording]

Defense Forces Announce Four Recent Transfers

PA2007175789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1708 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] As part of the normal rotation at the Panama Defense Forces, yesterday the following officers were transferred:

Lieutenant Colonel Armando Palacios Gondola, from the San Miguelito 11th Military Zone, has been transferred to the General Command of the Defense and Security Commission as chief;

Major Eduardo Gutierrez, from the Bocas del Toro 8th Military Zone, has been transferred to the National Navy as chief;

Major Victor Herrera, from the Panajungla Jungle Survival School, has been transferred to the 8th Military Zone as chief;

Major Miguel Aleman Mendoza, from the Veraguas 3d Military Zone, has been transferred to take the position as executive at the deputy chief's office of the G-1 of the General Staff.

Government Issues Resolution Releasing Prisoners

PA1407224489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Jul 89 p A-7

[Resolution No. 213 issued by the government and justice minister and dated 12 July]

[Text] Resolution No 213 (of 12 July 1989)

Ordering the release of individuals serving time for misdemeanors in fulfillment of police sentences.

The government and justice minister

Whereas:

The bicentennial of the French revolution, which is an historical event of universal scope and a milestone in the development of principles that stand as the bases of human solidarity and peaceful coexistence among all citizens regardless of birthplace, social class, ideology, and beliefs, is observed on 14 July;

Such a great event moves us to promote national peace and harmony, which are essential factors for peaceful coexistence among all citizens;

The authorized release of a number of individuals serving time for misdemeanors to fulfill police sentences, an action inspired by the principles of solidarity and fraternity that are celebrated in the 14 July celebrations, is a proper measure to give the detainees' relatives peace of mind;

The government and justice minister, in accordance with the charter of his ministry, is in charge of pardons and the commutation or lessening of punishments;

According to Article 897 of the Administrative Code, the reasons for granting pardons for crimes and halting penal proceedings apply to these misdemeanors;

For these reasons it is advisable to order the release of the below-named detainees;

Resolves: Article 1: Order the release of the following individuals condemned for administrative misdemeanors: Acosta Leotean, Wilfredo Almengor Garibaldo, Carlos A. Alvarado, Felix Eugenio Alvarado Munoz, Alonso Anderson Moreno, Tonys Aparicio Revennon, Augusto A. Arias Pons, Idelfonso Barrios Valverde, M. Antonio Beltran Jimenez, Martin Alberto Bethancourt Gudin, Leroy Boocth Vargas, Spencer Eric Camarena, Bernardo Antonio Camarena Paz, Braulio Antonio Carreno Reyna, Norberto Orlando Cedeno Perdomo, G. Octavio Cordoba, Bolivar Ernesto Corpas, Zacarias Coutte Sweetland, Arturo Arias Cruz, Jose E. Diaz Coronado, Carlos Isaac Dominguez, Alfonso Escobar Rodriguez,

Felipe Fernandez Lopez, Ernesto Flores Barba, Jose del Carmen Fong Lau, Mario Galvez Sanchez, Antonio Alcides Garcia, Felix Tito Gomez Forte, Jose Agustin Gomez Gonzalez, Mizael Gonzalez Acosta, Hector Antonio Gonzalez Atencio, Pedro Gonzalez Ordonez, Ruben Dario Jaen Quintero, Ricardo Enrique Jimenez Segundo Lene Rodriguez, Julio Lezcano Martinez, Joel Omar Lucero Jimenez, Jonathan Abdias Lucero Villareal, Rigoberto Luttrell Tedman, Jose Guillermo Macias Navas, Tichito Martinez Flores, Marcos Antonio Martinez Rodriguez, Adolfo Hitler Martinez Sanchez, Juan Ubaldo Martinez Anderson, Luis Mendieta Abrego, Fernando G. Mendieta Cruz, Marcelino Mendoza Sanjur, Jose Rodolfo Mitchell Anderson, Ricardo A. Montes Gomez, Carlos Antonio Montes Gomez, Jose Manuel Moreno Salazar, Jaime Ernesto Munoz Cabrera, Eric Francisco Nunez Ruiz, Alvis Ariel Ortega Tejada, Angel Maria Pineda Perez, Didimo Pinto Mendoza, Luis Oscar Quintero Cedeno, Diogenes Quintero Pineda, Jose Quintero Pineda, Pedro Antonio Rangel Rangel, Gudel Rangel Ruilova, Frederick Rangel Sanchez, Gudel Alberto Restrepo Garcia, Jose Luis Rodriguez Perez, Eliseo Rodriguez Valencia, Ivan Salas Lemos, Cirilo Tejeira Marin, Carlos Enrique Valdes Camarco, Carlos A. Valdes Miranda, Camilo Vallarino Bartuano, Fernando E. anegas Sanchez, Miguel Roberto Yip Fernandez, Fernando Antonio

Article 2: Submit copy of this resolution to the corresponding authorities for execution;

Article 3: This resolution will be in force upon its issuance.

Taiwan Goodwill Mission Arrives for Visit

OW1707105689 Taipei CNA in English 0943 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, July 16 (CNA)—The goodwill mission of the Republic of China's [ROC] National Assembly arrived Sunday in Panama for a three-day visit.

The mission, led by Assemblyman Yang Kung-mai, is composed of nine members. They were warmly greeted on arriving at the airport by officials of the ROC Embassy and Overseas Chinese leaders in Panama.

The Overseas Chinese Association hosted a welcoming party at a local restaurant in the evening in honor of the visiting Chinese parliamentarians.

Speaking on the occasion, Fermin Chan and Carlos Loo, president and honorary president of the assoication respectively, said that overseas Chinese feel a great honor for the progress made by the ROC in all aspects.

Both Chan and Loo affirmed that a great majority of overseas Chinese in Panama are anti-communist and support the ROC Government. They asked the mission to convey to the ROC Goverment and people their determination in support of the movement of reunifying China under the Three Principles of the People.

In response, Yang praised the overseas Chinese for the patriotism they have demonstrated toward the ROC and extended them the ROC Government and people's regards. He also told the overseas Chinese the progress and prosperity achieved by the ROC.

The mission will visit in the next two days the ROC Embassy, overseas Chinese communities and the Colon Free Zone. They are scheduled to leave Tuesday for Colombia, from where they will proceed to Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil before returning to Taipei.

Argentina

Menem Said 'Willing' To Talk With Thatcher

PY2007235989 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1816 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (DYN)—President Carlos Menem today considered as "concluded" the Venezuelan court's request for the arrest of Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli for his activities in that country as president of the Bunge & Born Enterprise. Menem said he is willing to talk with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on relations between the two countries.

Menem spoke with journalists this morning on leaving his house, at 1540 Posadas Street in Buenos Aires, as he usually does. He referred to Rapanelli, agreeing with a journalist in that "much has been gained by publishing the topic."

Another journalist told him that international agency reports indicate that Mrs Thatcher apparently wants to talk with Menem in 1990 during her official visit to Uruguay, to which Menem answered: "I have no problem with that." [passage omitted]

Asked about Argentina's attempts to renew negotiations with Great Britain to improve relations between the two countries, which have been interrupted since the 1982 war, Menem said that "the ice has now been broken."

He added that "there have been no official contacts. No politician or government official has made any individual or joint contact. The situation 's going well without contracts or communications between heads of state, but something is being achieved and progress is being made." [passage omitted]

Trial Over La Tablada Regiment Incident Begins

PY2007213889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2033 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (TELAM)—The first stage of the public trial of the 20 persons accused of taking over La Tablada Regiment in January 1989 began at just after 1700 [2000 GMT] today when Prosecutor Raul Plee began reading the state's accusation. [passage omitted]

Prosecutors Santiago Blanco Bermudez and Pablo Quiroga will follow Plee in the reading of the extensive 430-page accusation.

The court is presided over by Hugo Rossati and has Maria Herrera and Jorge Barral as co-judges. [passage omitted]

Luder Denies Urging Caceres To 'Hasten' Trials

PY2007180789 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Jul 89 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Defence Minister Italo Luder stated yesterday that "the task we have undertaken is to solve the internal problems of the Armed Forces, and especially of the Army, and to lead them back towards their specific functions." Luder acknowledged having given Army Chief-of-Staff Isidro Caceres orders "to make military justice proceed steadily with the investigation of the officers who participated in the Holy Week, Monte Caseros and Villa Martelli uprisings."

However, he denied having urged Caceres to "hasten" the trials. During an interview broadcast by Radio Continental, Luder underlined that "the situation of the accused officers will be analyzed case by case, any anybody found free of responsibility will be freed immediately."

In relation to rumours on the possible order of retirement for Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico, leader of the first two rebellions, but not for Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, who led the third, the Defense Minister said: "I can make no comments on individual cases."

As for the 18 generals and admirals already sentenced or under trial for human rights violations, he pointed out that they belonged more to the sphere of the judicial branch of power. Nonetheless, he added that "once there is a sentence, the ball is back on the executive branch field because the president has constitutional powers to issue pardons in specific cases."

Luder will preside today over a ceremony in which new Border Guard Chief and Deputy Chief, Commanders Adalino Barberis and Jorge Suerz, will be sworn in at the security force's headquarters in this city. The Border Guard top brass, civilian, military and religious authorities will be present at the ceremony.

In turn, a Defense Ministry spokesman announced that due to agenda problems Luder will not be able to attend a similar ceremomy at the Coast Guard premises, for which reason it was moved forward to tomorrow morning. Victor Sibell and David Robaina will take the two top jobs.

Finally, Air Force Chief-of-Staff Brigadier Jose Antonio Julia yesterday presided the ceremony in which new Air Regional Chief Brigadier-General Antonio Alegria was sworn in. The ceremony, attended by Defense Secretary Humberto Romero, was carried out at the Condor Building, the Air Force headquarters, and speeches were delivered by Alegria and former Air Regional Chief Brigadier-General Juan Correa Cuenca.

Alegria pointed out that "we know the problems and will not stop until they are definitely solved because our final objective is to provide maximum security to all aspects of air activity."

Token Payment Made to IMF; Fresh Loans Sought

PY2007151989 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1144 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (DYN)—After a year of not making any payments on the interest on its foreign debt, Argentina has made a $40-million token payment to the IMF.

This payment, designed to show Argentina's interest in restoring normal relations with international organizations in order to again be able to secure credits, was made at the same time that Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo—who has been charged with conducting negotiations in this direction—arrived in the United States.

It has been reported in Buenos Aires that Cavallo will meet with officials of the main international financial entities and U.S. Government officials to negotiate a $500-million credit that will be repaid when additional ready cash [recursos liquidos] is received in the country.

Meanwhile, Argentina will soon have to pay another $450 million to the IMF and the World Bank so as not to be declared a nonelegible member—that is, suspended as a member of these organizations—and thus lose its respected position.

The Central Bank's receipt of about $700 million after Carlos Menem's inauguration as Argentine president—a result of payments made by exporters who withheld their foreign currency to await a new dollar-austral exchange rate—now permits the government a more optimistic view of foreign accounts.

The arrival of a World Bank mission, which is now in the country, and the visit of an IMF group a little over a week ago have also lifted the spirits of Economy Ministry officials, who trust that Argentina will secure a greatly desired $1-billion standby [preceding word in English] credit from the IMF.

The resumption of negotiations with the IMF, in addition to the implementation of a program of fiscal adjustments and a streamlining of the state, both of which have been announced by the government, will permit Argentina to again renegotiate with the private banks on the overdue interest on the foreign debt and on securing "fresh" loans to "haul" dollars to the state's coffers.

Bolivia

Warning Issues on Militarization of Coca Zones

PY2107021489 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Jul 89 Second Section p 5

[Text] Cochabamba, 15 Jul (PRESENCIA)—Labor unions, political organizations, human rights organizations, and popular movements in Cochabamba have issued a warning about the possible "militarization" of the coca-growing zones.

The report rejects the presence of U.S. troops in Bolivian territory "on the pretext of fighting drug trafficking," and it asserts that the U.S. presence is aimed at "gaining better political and military control over Bolivia and the southern cone."

"We oppose the Bolivian Government's decision to use violent means to eradicate the Yapacani coca plantations as of 23 July, and we entirely reject this decision," the document states.

The organizations also support the hunger strike staged by Roger Cortez, Socialist Party-1 leader, and by Victor Hugo Cardenas, Tupac Katari Revolutionary Liberation Movement leader. They are protesting the decision not to allow elected leftist congressmen be seated, thus ignoring the will of the people, who elected the congressmen in the 7 May elections.

The document then urges all popular movements, labor unions, and political parties interested in preserving the people's rights to form a united fighting front which "recognizes the workers organizations" capacity to unite the people and which can overcome all sectarian attitudes thus allowing the working classes to unanimously reject all attempts against our national sovereignty and overcome the decision to prevent the democratically elected leftist congressmen from taking their seats in Congress."

The document is signed by representatives of the Departmental Labor Federation (COD), the Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly (APDHB), the Tropical Peasants Special Federation [Federacion Especial de Campesinos del Tropico] (FETCTC), the Tropical Carrasco Settlers Federation [Federacion de Colonizadores de Carrasco Tropical] (FUTCC), and the Association of Relatives of Missing Persons.

Another Judge Turns Down 'Zarate Willka' Case

PY2007231389 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] When he refused to hear the "Zarate Willka" case, Seventh Court Judge Ricardo Alarcon Pozo yesterday became the second judge to refuse to hear the case initiated by the Attorney General's Office against some members of that armed organization, which has been accused of "terrorism and attempted murder."

Sixth Court Judge Nestor Torrico turned down the case because of the death threats he received through anonymous phone calls against himself and members of his family. He was told that "you are being followed." He was told to release the detainees, the three students that are being held at the San Pedro Prison.

Visiting FRG Official Observes Antidrug Efforts

PY2007145889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] FRG Interior Vice Minister (Herman Schab Weber) has said that all countries should unite their efforts to eradicate drug trafficking. (Schab Weber) yesterday met with Bolivian government officials.

Following a meeting with members of the National Antidrug Council, (Schab Weber) stressed the need for all countries to coordinate their efforts. He added that they should be aware that it will be difficult to succeed in the antidrug struggle if they do not promote mutual cooperation. He said that all countries have been urged to participate in the antidrug campaign. He added that all countries should undertake a joint effort to improve the current situation and to reach the main objectives.

(Schab Weber) Came to Bolivia to observe the Bolivian Government's antidrug struggle. He is trying to collect as much information as possible to encourage the FRG and other countries to cooperate directly with coca-growing countries.

(Schab Weber) Voiced his satisfaction and praise for the activities the Bolivian Government has carried out so far.

Brazil

World Bank Grants $8 Million for Environment

PY2107011089 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The World Bank has released funds for fighting fires in the Amazonian region. Interior Minister Joao Alves has informed President Jose Sarney that the World Bank today released $8 million to help the Brazilian Government fight fires in the Amazonian region.

The Environmental Preservation Institute will now choose the targets to be attained with those funds.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Minister Alves today informed President Jose Sarney that the World Bank has released $8 million for the preservation of the Amazonian forests. Has Brazil begun to use those funds?

[Alves] The decision by the bank was confirmed to us today. We will now plan how to use those funds for fighting fires in the Amazonian region. [end recording]

Minister Jose Alves and Environmental Preservation Institute President Fernando Cesar Mesquita will meet in the next few days to agree on the use of the funds, which will allow a drastic reduction of the number of fires in the Amazonian region.

Sarney Praises Efforts To Preserve Ecology

PY2107022489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] At Planalto Palace today, President Jose Sarney attended a ceremony during which an accord was signed between the Bank of Brazil Foundation and the National Amazonian Research Institute. The objective of the accord is to finance research activities in the region. President Sarney said that other countries like France, the United States, and the FRG have recognized Brazil's efforts to preserve the environment. The president encouraged researchers to continue with their work.

[Begin Sarney recording] On the other hand, it is known that we are neither the most nor the least responsible for what is being done at a world level in connection with the layer... [changes thought] with the heating of the atmosphere, and with the destruction of the ozone layer, which protects life on our planet.

I would like once again to thank all those who are working on these enviromental projects because we have managed to make substantial progress. This progress has been accomplished despite the difficulties that had to be faced in order to coordinate the scattered actions that were being implemented by various organs, and in order to undertake a joint, team effort that could directly tackle the problem without fearing to tell the truth.

The government has laid the cornerstone for an environmental preservation policy that will be an example to the world. [end recording]

The government will invest 4.7 million new cruzados in financing the research projects.

June Consumer Price Index Up 29 Percent

PY1907134589 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1800 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] has reported that the June Consumer Price Index was up 29.4 percent. Despite the high index, IBGE President (Salles Muller) said he does not think inflation will continue climbing as in the past months. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Defense Minister, Barco on Rebel Dialogue

PA2007161689 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Bogota—Defense Minister General Oscar Botero Restrepo said that there will be guarantees for all the guerrillas who demobilize and lay down their weapons.

He explained that security measures are being studied in accordance with the agreements signed by presidential adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda and M-19 [19 April Movement] leader Carlos Pizarro.

Gen Botero Restrepo said that he hopes that the peace process will successfully conclude as soon as possible. He said that the Army has not abandoned western Boyaca Department, where armed clashes are taking place over control of the emerald business, adding that troops have the situation under control.

The defense minister said that President Barco is not displeased with the results of the Armed Forces' actions. The minister was referring to the increase in expenditures for equipment and investments. Gen Botero Restrepo did not comment on the reasons for the removal of his predecessor, General Jaime Guerrero Paz. He also refrained from commenting on President Barco's speech at the ceremony in which the new defense minister was presented to the troops. The president did not mention the previous defense minister in his speech.

The government has opened the possibility of a dialogue with the Army of National Liberation, if that subversive group ends its attacks on the country's petroleum infrastructure. President Barco said that those attacks harm the country's wealth and that therefore the government cannot hold a dialogue under such conditions. After attending the military ceremony in honor of the new defense minister, President Barco said that his repeated mention in recent speeches of the increase in Armed Forces expenditures does not mean that he is displeased with the results obtained in the fight against subversion and common crime. President Barco also said that the opinions expressed by former President Misael Pastrana concerning the country's political situation do not in any way contribute to finding solutions.

Ecuador

Militarization of Oil Facilities Requested

PA2107024089 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2305 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The National Government has requested the militarization of all Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE] facilities to prevent paralyzing the production of hydrocarbons, production of which has been interrupted over the past few days because of work stoppages.

CEPE Manager Luis Roman said today that the government will guarantee the normal supply of fuel in the country and will not permit the interruption of activities in that corporation.

[Begin Roman recording, in progress] ...citizens that in order to guarantee the normal development of operational activities, CEPE—the national government—decided to request military protection at all of CEPE's facilites. As citizens will realize, the government cannot permit the interruption of national production through work stoppages that could affect the country's normal fuel supply.

Yesterday morning, CEPE workers stopped work at the (Pascuale) Terminal in Guayaquil. Consequently, CEPE had to implement immediate and effective measures, which continued until late last night. In that manner, it was possible to quickly restore normal supply.

We must clearly state that we will not permit any paralyzation, because CEPE's responsibility to guarantee this service is above any [word indistinct] that could have negative effects on our economy.

In the same manner, I must clearly state that CEPE's activities in other parts of the country continued normally yesterday and today. So, citizens have no reason to worry. [end recording]

Peru

Reportage on Shining Path's 'Armed Stoppage'

Interior Ministry Reports

PY2107032889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Communique from the Interior Ministry Social Communications Office issued 20 July 1989]

[Text] The Interior Ministry wants to inform the people of the following:

1. The self-styled Shining Path terrorist group today tried to carry out a subversive act called an armed stoppage. This stoppage was aimed at disrupting public order yesterday and today, Wednesday and Thursday, by distributing leaflets, painting walls, throwing bombs, and setting fire to five buses.

2. The forces of order, in compliance with their mandate, to watch over public order and to protect public and private property, decisively confronted these criminals, with the following result: 6 subversive criminals killed and 1 wounded in confrontations with the national police; and 34 subversive criminals detained for confronting the police while trying to destroy public transport vehicles, or for carrying weapons, explosives, or firebombs.

3. The Peruvian Government wants to congratulate all responsible workers, defenders of the democratic order, for their resolute decision not to be intimidated by subversion.

[Dated] Lima, 20 July 1989.
[Signed] Interior Ministry Social Communications Office.

Two Reporters Escape

PY2007192689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Reporters Hugo Martinez Chavamay and Jose Sotomayor Munoz, from the WTN [Worldwide Television Network] news agency of New York escaped a terrorist attack this morning. According to a police report, their car was hit from behind by a dynamite stick. The attack took place in block No 23 on Venezuela Avenue. The two reporters are Peruvian.

Police Kill 3 Terrorists

PY2007192889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The Police killed three terrorists during a clash on block No 36 of Industrial Avenue, San Martin de Porras District, today at dawn. The terrorists had stolen a small bus which they were going to burn and block the traffic on Panamericana Norte highway.

The terrorists were identified as: Abel Villar Lebano Quintanilla and Felix Ruben Alarcon Balmaceda. The third man has not been identified.

Wrap-up of Events

PY2007232489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2030 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Lima, 20 Jul (EFE)—According to various sources, at least 7 guerrillas died and 10 alleged terrorists and 8,500 persons were detained today in Lima during the 24-hour armed stoppage that was called by the Shining Path organization.

General Cesar Ramirez Perez, director of Peru's National Police, stated today that confrontations between police and guerrillas occurred in several parts of Lima.

Lima townhall (civilian government) has also reported the detention of 8,500 suspects, and persons without identity documents, in raids carried out by soldiers and police. Seventeen of them have been handed over to the Antiterrorist Directorate (DIRCOTE).

General Ramirez Perez stated that work attendance in Lima's factories is around 95 percent. Other workers did not turn up in view of the lack of transportation due to a strike of the bus owners, who are asking for an increase in fares.

After yesterday's attacks on buses, in which five were burned, bus owners have become afraid of further attacks.

Establishments closed in several places on the outskirts of Lima due to the fear of Shining Path attacks, despite intensive police and military patrolling.

Hundreds of police, supported by armed vehicles, are patrolling Lima to prevent attacks against public and private property following yesterday's attacks in which alleged guerrillas looted two markets and threw explosives at the townhall of the Lima district of San Juan de Lurigancho.

The cabinet, presided over by Peruvian President Alan Garcia, which sits at Government House, is under strict police protection.

Two Peruvian journalists of the U.S. Worldwide Television Network escaped unscathed from a dynamite attack that occurred early this morning on Venezuela Avenue, located in an industrial sector of Lima in the neighborhood of San Marcos Higher University.

Last night police arrested 20 alleged members of the Shining Path group and they have been accused of yesterday's bus burning.

Venezuela

* Fernandez on Dialogue With Perez, Other Issues

33480223b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Jun 89 p D-6

[Interview with COPEI Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez by Ada Urribarri; date and place not given]

[Text] In referring to the conversation which he had with the president, the secretary general of COPEI [Social Christian Party] has pointed out that "It is important for the government and the opposition, in their respective roles, to strengthen democracy and to restore faith in the political parties."

The delicate situation in the country, the attacks against the judicial branch of the government, and military promotions were some of the subjects covered by President Carlos Andres Perez and Eduardo Fernandez, secretary general of COPEI.

Fernandez, accompanied by Pablo Morillo and rather reluctant to speak (perhaps out of respect for a request not to divulge the contents of such meetings), agreed to speak to this reporter.

As will be recalled, Eduardo Fernandez was not invited to the inauguration of the president. However, during the past 3 weeks both leaders have met at Miraflores Palace (in the course of private dinners) to discuss matters of national political interest.

[EL NACIONAL] What was the purpose of these private meetings?

[Fernandez] I think that the situation in the country is delicate enough to require a continuing and timely dialogue between the government and the opposition. I think that it is important to establish a framework of

understanding and cooperation, in order to offer options to the country. An enormous dose of optimism and confidence in Venezuela is needed for the government to do its duty properly and for the opposition to do the same. The two of them should help the country and create an atmosphere which will make it possible for Venezuelans to regain confidence in our potential. To do this, it is not necessary for the government to cease being the government. We will not allow it to go over to the opposition.

A Change of Direction?

When Fernandez was asked about the change in attitude by President Perez toward the secretary general of the principal opposition party, he replied that "this change is a positive fact," particularly "for those of us who have never refused to engage him in a dialogue."

[EL NACIONAL] Has the president taken into account the views which you gave him at your recent meeting?

[Fernandez] The central subject of this conversation revolved around a matter which must concern all of us: the new debts and the announcement of the so-called "fresh money."

On 5 June the National Committee of COPEI made a statement on this subject. The president is usually well informed, so that certainly, before that statement became public on 6 June, he was already acquainted with what we had said. In our announcement we stated once again that we were not refusing to discuss future policy on the handling of the Venezuelan external debt. However, this matter is too important to decide on what the government plans to do with those resources.

[EL NACIONAL] Did the president explain this matter to you?

[Fernandez] He assured me that he was thinking about holding a major national consultative meeting on the use of these resources, because in the past we have wasted much of the money obtained from foreign loans and we cannot continue to repeat the same errors.

The framework of the conversation is the wager which we are making, he on the part of the government and I from the opposition, that Venezuela will succeed and that we will see the light at the end of the tunnel in which we find ourselves.

[EL NACIONAL] Did you discuss the problem regarding the judicial branch of the government and matters related to insistent rumors about a coup d'etat?

[Fernandez] All of these matters were covered in our discussions, and I think that we, the parties represented in Congress, gave a good example about overcoming our apparently insoluble difficulties in holding the election of the comptroller general, the attorney general, and the justices of the Supreme Court. It is not acceptable that all of the power of public opinion behind Democratic Action should be used in trying to convince the Venezuelan people that the opposition is of no use. And all of the power of public opinion behind the opposition should not be used to convince the people that the government is of no use.

We have to keep in mind that the past 30 years of democracy have been a great achievement and that these years have brought great international prestige to Venezuela. The two great democratic parties have rendered very positive services to the country, and we have a duty to strengthen democracy and not destroy it.

[EL NACIONAL] Could this second call confirm the view that it is necessary to broaden the process of cooperation to cover the political parties?

[Fernandez] From the beginning I have been insisting that the political parties should make an effort to cooperate. It is essential. The understanding with top levels of management and labor is very positive in connection with many things. However, decisions finally are in the hands of the politicians, both those of the government as well as of the opposition.

Since Doctor Barrios has brought prayer back in style, what we need to do is to ask God to give us enlightened politicians. Let us help to give back to Venezuela its optimism, its confidence in the future, and its confidence in democracy.

No Interference

The matters referring to military promotions and questions which COPEI has asked, some of which were skillfully lifted from the context of the interview, cast greater suspicions on that interview.

With the scrupulous respect which I feel for the powers which the chief of state has under the constitution as commander in chief of the armed forces, I made some comments to him in this respect, which in any case the party has also made at the parliamentary level.

[EL NACIONAL] Would these questions be the ones referring to "leveraged" promotions?

Fernandez simply smiled and then repeated the respect which he feels for the role which the president has as commander in chief of the armed forces. He said: "When presidents in office have come from my party, I was very careful not to behave in a way which might interfere with their handling of this very delicate mission."

Cobbler, Stick to Your Last

Fernandez continued: "Leaders of the different political parties (at high and medium levels) have made clear their positions regarding the resignation of Perez

Espana, the judge of the 14th Penal Court, his membership in Democratic Action, and the repercussions and denunciations which his conduct has brought to the attention of public opinion in the crudest way: the practice of excessive intervention by the political parties in decisions involving the administration of justice.

"I think that interference by the political parties is very bad. Therefore, I have announced that COPEI is not going to present candidates linked to our party in the case of the Court of Constitutional Guarantees, for example. Rather, we should reach a consensus regarding judges of absolute integrity, above suspicion of partiality, and who deserve the confidence of all elements of public opinion.

"I have been denouncing the excessive and exaggerated participation of the political parties in national life. I think that in the interest of the health of democracy the political parties should concern themselves with their specific role. I am fighting against interference by the political parties in areas which, by their very nature, relate to civil society and whose autonomy must be respected."

Venezuela First

Until now the secretary general of COPEI (at least publicly) has kept out of party infighting. However, we could not let this subject go by, particularly when Vivas Teran himself accused Fernandez of being an "obstacle to the institutional development of the party." Fernandez said:

"Regarding the internal problems of the party, I must say that we should handle them internally. The country already has enough lawsuits, and my desire will be to reflect confidence and optimism and to help to restore faith in Venezuela and in its democratic parties. This is the most important task for the country, and I wish to devote myself to it. I want to set a good example. It is very unpleasant when a family exposes its problems before the whole community, when we have more discreet arrangements to resolve differences.

"In the second place," he added, "I wish to recommend to those who run for office in internal party elections not to fall into the temptation of speaking negatively about their opponents. If anyone wishes to compete in internal COPEI elections, let him or her say what he or she can do better. However, do not denounce your brother, because in Venezuela we all need to develop the habit of speaking well of our country."

*** Finance Minister on Recadi Investigation**
33480223c Caracas EL N.ICIONAL in Spanish
1 Jun 89 p D-2

[Article by Rafael Palacio D.: "Minister of Finance Dismisses Financial Irregularities"]

[Text] Minister of Finance Eglee Iturbe has stated that turning over to commercial banks certain forms and documents which guarantee the bonds with the government as beneficiary in case of nonperformance is a normal administrative procedure which has been used following the government's decision to close the National Preferential Exchange Office, better known as Recadi. She stated that over the past 6 years 228 bonds have been executed in favor of the government, with the income amounting to about 46 million bolivares.

Iturbe was questioned at a hearing on 31 May by members of the Special Committee of the Office of the Comptroller General for the Recadi case, whose chairman is Deputy Douglas Dager. The hearing was held to clear up certain points regarding the complaint made by Dager himself, in which he alleged that there have been irregularities in the handling of the cases containing information presented by importers. At that time it was a requirement to present this information in order to obtain U.S. dollars at a preferential rate. It was also necessary to prove that the importer had obtained a bond guaranteed by a bank or an insurance company in favor of the nation, for a total amount of money in bolivares which corresponded to the type of import and the rate of exchange applicable.

Deputy Dager stated that he recently had a telephone conversation with the minister of finance to reiterate to her his concern regarding how the bonds are being handled. After he made this statement, he read a regulation of the Ministry of Finance in which deputies were reminded of the confidentiality of the opinions of legal counsel and that access to official records is restricted, for which reason Congress must send a formal request each time it requires a report.

The minister replied that both within the ministry as well as far as she personally was concerned, there was a frank willingness to cooperate with investigations being carried on regarding alleged irregularities in Recadi. However, her explanation was interrupted by a dispute which arose between Deputies Cristobal Hernandez and Douglas Dager. Deputy Cristobal Hernandez said that he was disgusted by an attempt by Dager to repeat his previous questions. This took time which used up the same period of time allotted for the frustrated explanation by the minister. After an exchange of words and of comments like, "Hernandez is sabotaging the investigation," the minister of finance began her statement once again, stating that by law access to the records of the public administration is limited to use by government officials when some kind of investigation is being carried on, "although by looking at the newspapers you can read a large part of the record."

She added: "However, so that there will be no impression left in the mind of the committee that the ministry is not cooperating, I wish to inform you that we have received 45 letters, 33 of which have been answered. We have sent 20,000 pages of documents to Congress alone. Remember that, simultaneously, the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], a public prosecutor, the special investigating judge, and the Office of the Comptroller General are asking us for information. That is why we cannot deal with the requests which come in with all of the promptness expected."

The minister explained that during the period 1983-1986 importers were requested to open a bond in order to receive U.S. dollars at the preferential rate. When the importer demonstrated that, in fact, the foreign exchange had been used to purchase the merchandise in accordance with the provisions appearing in the import agreement, the bonds were released. She said: "In March 1986 the letter of credit system was adopted. However, in the first few years of the system of differential rates of exchange, we processed 271,073 bonds which guaranteed $18 billion of foreign exchange allocations for imports. When I took over the position of minister of finance I found that about 10 percent of the cases, amounting to about 27,000 in all, lacked the information needed to know whether the bonds could be released or should be executed in favor of the government."

She repeated that, in view of the need to close down Recadi, she was faced with the following alternatives: sending the 27,000 cases to the Office of the Public Prosecutor to proceed with collection on the bonds or beginning a process of "cleaning up the files," which consisted in sending a summary of the files to the banks so that they could contact their clients among the importers and complete the files.

Deputy Dager again asked her about irregularities in this practice of sending the files to the banks so that they, in conjunction with the importers, could decide if they should or should not pay the obligations they had assumed. Minister Iturbe stated that in no case were the original files turned over to the banks but only the summaries. When the summaries were again received at the Ministry of Finance, this ministry would decide whether the bond could be released or executed.

The chairman of the subcommittee insisted on asking why the Ministry of Finance had not executed the bonds when, according to the regulation which it had issued, the importers had a period of 180 days to complete the files (supplying an import manifest and invoices, among other things).

Minister Iturbe replied that she does not know the reason why the Ministry of Finance did not take action to execute the bonds, since at that time she was not associated with the ministry. However, to some extent she explained the delay, alleging that the continuous changes of system in Recadi involved giving preference to newly adopted procedures, rather than to the older procedures. She added that the customs offices and the banks have the original copies of certain bonds which the importers had to present and that it is the importer and not the ministry who is charged with compiling the information.

After a new interruption by Deputy Cristobal Hernandez, who asked that several articles of the regulation on debates should be read, the minister of finance provided assurances that the records of Recadi are under the protection of the National Guard and that access to the records has been limited to persons not connected with the investigation.

* New Attorney General on Legal System Reform

33480223a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
11 Jun 89 p D-2

[Interview with Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom by Alfredo Pena; date and place not given]

[Text] The crisis of the judicial branch of the government is shaking Venezuela. We see accounts of accusations made every day that arrest orders are bought and sold. The freedom of a person does not depend on his or her innocence but on the economic or political authorities and on the decision which shows at that time that a judicial judgment has been bought. In addition to the breakdown of that branch of the government whose existence is fundamental for the proper functioning of democracy, an additional problem is personal security. No one is safe anywhere, not even in a police station where a person can be raped, as were a woman geologist and two French tourists, mother and son. The system is in a crisis, and this fact can no longer be hidden. The state is ineffective and corrupt and is not even able to ensure the proper functioning of public services. Telephones, water, urban sewage services, hospitals, ports, and airports are in disastrous condition. The ordinary citizen is impotent, embittered, and frustrated. He has no way of making himself heard by those who hold power. The people have not found a way to show their dissatisfaction, and that is why they broke out in February with the uprising of the "Poor Against the Rich." A Venezuelan citizen is even denied the right of directly electing—by name and surname—his or her representatives in legislative bodies. Today the "Forum" column interviews Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom.

[EL NACIONAL] You assumed your position as attorney general at a time when our country is going through a very serious political, social, economic, and moral crisis. And you are probably aware of the sad role which your office played in the past.

[Escovar Salom] I am aware that this position involves a very difficult challenge. The situation facing the country is particularly complex and, therefore, the operations of the Office of the Attorney General are particularly delicate. I did not accept this position to embellish my record, because I did not need that. I accepted this position because I thought that it was a way of contributing to something which I always have thought should be done in Venezuela: strengthening democratic legality. We have established a political democracy and have made some very sophisticated progress compared with countries at the same level of development as we are. However, that is not enough. It is necessary to go further. We thought that democracy consisted only of holding elections and of political freedom.

[EL NACIONAL] You were elected attorney general by the same system which chose the person whom you have just replaced. Why will things be different with you?

[Escovar Salom] The election of the attorney general was previously by a majority vote. In my case there was a consensus, which had no precedent, as far as I know. Three political parties, in addition to independents, voted for me.

[EL NACIONAL] I refer to the system in effect, under which the political parties choose and dismiss a minister. More than once we have denounced the fact that the attorney general—like other leaders of institutions of great importance in the country—is manipulated, influenced, or pressured by political leaders.

[Escovar Salom] I can only speak for myself. Those who know me, and perhaps that is why they elected me by consensus, know that I cannot be manipulated by anyone. I will act with total and absolute independence. I will guide myself exclusively by what the constitution provides and I will not deviate from that standard. I do not believe that any political party intends to pressure me. Furthermore, I think that they are beginning to understand that such behavior is counterproductive. I am determined to do everything possible to ensure that this attitude continues to spread. Everything depends on the type of government official. I do not want to make any comparisons with any other important official in the public administration. However, each one has his or her own style.

[EL NACIONAL] Corruption has become overwhelming. The situation at Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office] case is the symbol, the prototype of the moral breakdown of our society. Nevertheless, the state organs charged with fighting corruption—among which is the Office of the Attorney General—are acting as if nothing were happening here.

[Escovar Salom] There is great inefficiency in our institutions. The volume of complaints from civil society is greater than the answers provided by the state. Appeals must follow the legal course, and there has to be an institution which processes them so that they come to an end and achieve a result. However, in this connection the ordinary citizen has been forsaken completely. There is no protection at all, and for that reason the citizen does not believe in the legal system. This is particularly serious. We must bring back confidence in the law. To make that possible, it will be necessary to ensure respect for the judicial branch of the government. We cannot go on accepting the fact that the judicial branch can be politicized.

[EL NACIONAL] It has happened that some cases have been prepared by the Office of the Comptroller General, alleging that specific persons are administratively responsible for improper actions. These cases have simply gathered dust in the Office of the Attorney General. And now there are the results which surely will follow the investigation of the Recadi affair. The Office of the Attorney General will have to make a decision on the case, although very powerful interests are involved in the matter.

[Escovar Salom] If action is required, action will be taken.

[EL NACIONAL] And the cases on which no action is being taken in your department?

[Escovar Salom] I do not know what you are referring to. I cannot answer except for the period since I entered this office. However, if there are cases where proper action has not been taken, they will have to be included with other matters under consideration.

The Office of the Attorney General and Corruption

[EL NACIONAL] What will the Office of the Attorney General do to fight against corruption?

[Escovar Salom] Corruption does not exist only in government bodies but in all of Venezuelan society. Our cultural behavior generates corruption. Furthermore, there is a structural weakness in our families, and that is where certain ethical standards are learned. To campaign against corruption involves not only the need to apply the laws like the Law of Constitutional Guarantees. It is also necessary to have a culture in our society which supports public morality. It is this aspect of culture which we do not have. We have a tradition of living to the fullest, which is described in a famous 19th century book, "Las Memorias de un Vividor" [The Memoirs of a Person Who Made the Most of Life], by Tosta Garcia. In "Memorias de un Venezolano en la Decadencia" [Memoirs of a Venezuelan in Decadence], by Pocaterra, the corruption of that time is reflected.

[EL NACIONAL] Does this comment mean that we Venezuelans are corrupt by nature?

[Escovar Salom] You have mentioned a significant reason for making a distinction. We are not corrupt by nature. However, there are cultural ferments which feed corruption. Consider that in Protestant societies corruption is less extensive because their ethical standards are much stronger than those which have traditionally prevailed in Catholic countries.

[EL NACIONAL] The transnational corporations, with their bribes and corruption, come to us from those Protestant societies. These corporations have sponsored this evil in the Latin American countries.

[Escovar Salom] Yes, but you have to distinguish between the international conduct of certain companies and certain transactions and the behavior of those companies in their own societies. It may be that a transnational company will behave abroad in a manner different

from the way in which citizens behave in the country where it has its headquarters. Corruption is international. There are many mechanisms which are manipulated from the outside. The weak countries are victims of that kind of corruption. In Japan there have been major scandals. Recently, there was one....

[EL NACIONAL] Yes, but in Japan, the United States, and other democratic countries the guilty parties are punished, and the law does not distinguish or discriminate between the president, the prime minister, or any ordinary citizen.

[Escovar Salom] This country has no system of rewards or punishments. Here merit is not sufficiently rewarded, nor is the guilty person punished. Everything is permitted. Corruption cannot be wiped out in a day, but it certainly can be reduced. The important thing is to move forward in that direction. However, to do this we need to have a national commitment which makes the judicial branch of the government really autonomous.

Justice and the Insiders

[EL NACIONAL] As long as the insiders in the political parties interfere in the election of members of the Supreme Court, the Council of the Judiciary, and the Court of Constitutional Guarantees, there will be no autonomous judicial branch of the government. The political leaders have a role in the choice of judges in any part of the country.

[Escovar Salom] Under those conditions the judicial branch of the government cannot be autonomous. We must ensure that such things do not continue to happen.

[EL NACIONAL] Why do the people not elect judges as in other democratic countries?

[Escovar Salom] The ideal is to have judges elected by the people. If we go to the foundations of political theory, the origins of the judicial branch of the government should be the same as that of the executive and legislative branches. Who knows whether that process would politicize justice to a greater extent? I would be in favor of having the people elect local, district judges. We could carry out such an experiment in certain parts of the country.

[EL NACIONAL] And in some sections of Caracas.

[Escovar Salom] Correct! In the areas where the characteristics of the people make it possible.

The Origins of Power

[EL NACIONAL] You have always supported the idea of single member districts for the election of council members, deputies, and senators. Do you still think this way?

[Escovar Salom] Yes, I believe that voting by single member districts is a necessity and, if adopted, it would mean a great step forward for the country. No one argues about that. And such an arrangement should be part of a whole complex of reforms.

[EL NACIONAL] The problem is in the origins of power in Venezuela. The insider imposes his candidates on the legislative bodies and on the presidency. And later on he decides who will make up all of the branches of government. Those "popularly elected" representatives are responsible to the insiders and not to society as a whole.

[Escovar Salom] That is true. However, that kind of behavior is worn out and cannot be accepted any longer.

[EL NACIONAL] The fact is that the so-called National Congress elects the judicial branch of the government. And if the electoral system is not changed, would it be preferable for the judges to be directly elected by the people? If they were so chosen, they would answer to the community and not to political party insiders.

[Escovar Salom] I agree that it is necessary to broaden democracy. We must broaden the room for maneuver within society and let fresh air into the system.

[EL NACIONAL] The political parties should also democratize themselves internally.

[Escovar Salom] That result is coming. It cannot be stopped. I see a change in attitude in the political parties, not only among the leaders but also among the ordinary members.

Human Rights

[EL NACIONAL] The Office of the Attorney General would have to take action regarding human rights, which, in our country, are openly violated. Recently, complaints have been made that it is the police organizations themselves which humiliate, annoy, and rape detainees.

[Escovar Salom] That concerns me in a special way. The helplessness of the Venezuelan citizen angers me. The humiliating treatment which users of the various public services receive. The mail service hardly exists at all. There are abuses which are also committed when cuts are made in electricity, in the water, and in the bad telephone service. Imperfections in service do not bother me so much as how little interest there is in correcting them. The existing indolence in the public administration, the poor condition of public property, and the lack of maintenance are very serious matters which are part of the cultural behavior of Venezuelan society. The great cause at present is the matter of human rights. In August the Declaration of the Rights of Man of the French

Revolution will be 200 years old. This will be an extraordinary occasion to revive the idea of human rights in the world. Venezuelan democracy has made great progress in this respect.

The Events of February

[EL NACIONAL] You speak of awakening the country to the call of a crisis. What do you think of the events of 27 and 28 February?

[Escovar Salom] I looked at them from abroad as a reaction to an accumulation of frustrations. I was considerably surprised at so much passivity by the people and said to myself that one day it could explode into great, collective anger. That is what happened in February. The date of 27 February is an historic fact which is going to influence the immediate future of our country as the events of 1968 influenced France. The people are too much affected by what happened.

[EL NACIONAL] It gives the impression that the political elite was not involved at all.

[Escovar Salom] I certainly think that the elite is beginning to understand what happened.

[EL NACIONAL] In February the rate of inflation was 2 percent. In April it rose to 40 percent. And at that time the stinking mess of the Recadi affair had not exploded.

[Escovar Salom] It is clear that inflation has gone up. However, I was recently entrusted with the Recadi case, and I cannot make any statement on it.

[EL NACIONAL] The public opinion polls reveal that the people do not believe in the views or in the words of our political leadership. This situation should concern many of the leaders of a system based on political parties.

[Escovar Salom] That is certainly worrisome. However, there is something more serious, and that is the crisis of the future.

[EL NACIONAL] On 10 June we published a survey which showed that 19 percent of our young people wish to leave the country.

[Escovar Salom] I read your story. The figure impressed but did not surprise me, because I have spoken with many young people abroad and also here in Venezuela. They have expressed their lack of confidence in the future. This skepticism is not only found among young people but in all of society.

[EL NACIONAL] People of foreign origin, principally Spaniards, Portuguese, and Italians, are moving to other countries.

[Escovar Salom] That aspect was one of the things which I read with the greatest concern when I was Venezuelan ambassador to France. In large part modern Venezuela is the work of the Italians, the Spaniards, and the Portuguese. The crisis of the future is due to the fact that there is a series of dreams and illusions which have not been realized. Comfort was the "American dream," and in Venezuela the "Venezuelan dream" began to develop—the hope of having that kind of comfort. We traveled along that road, and a middle class was already in the process of formation. However, the crisis has had a tremendous effect on the middle class, and this circumstance may have very serious consequences for the country.

[EL NACIONAL] Promises made during election campaigns which then are not kept have a great influence on the hopelessness and skepticism of today.

[Escovar Salom] I have written a great deal about this in my column, "The Paper Window." The excess in the supply of promises and the shortfalls in fulfilling them is dramatic.

[EL NACIONAL] The present government leaders promised in 1988: "Full employment and restoring to the middle class its 1978 standard of living."

[Escovar Salom] An excessive number of promises seems tremendously dangerous and destabilizing to me, in any country. I am not referring specifically to the past election campaign but to what they now call the anthropology of expectations. An excessive number of promises is a factor of social destabilization because it causes frustrations.

Meeting Again With Carlos Andres Perez

[EL NACIONAL] This comment used to circulate in political circles: "Ramon Escovar Salom was dismissed from office by President Carlos Andres Perez when he was abroad in his position as foreign minister of Venezuela. The present chief of state was opposed to his appointment as attorney general." What will your relationship be with President Perez? How will the department which you head function in dealing with so dominant and vigorous a personality as that of the president?

[Escovar Salom] In Volume II of your book, "Conversaciones con Carlos Andres Perez" [Conversations with Carlos Andres Perez], in answer to one of your questions President Perez states that I was not dismissed. Normally, when a person is dismissed, he says, "I resigned." In my case the contrary was true. I am the one who has said that the president dismissed me.

[EL NACIONAL] Why do you say that President Perez dismissed you?

[Escovar Salom] I never questioned the power of the president to make changes in the cabinet. What offended me was the manner in which it was done, because there were other ways of doing it. I have said this personally to the president. I felt humiliated and I quoted to him a phrase of Andre Malraux: "Dignity is the opposite of humiliation." That is the way I took leave of the president and, for that reason, I did not accept the position of ambassador in Washington. Not because I could not have handled that or some other position but because of the way in which I left the government. That circumstance left an enormous gap between me and Carlos Andres Perez, and I have never hidden this fact. However, some friends discussed the matter with him and with me over a considerable period of time, seeking to end this dispute. I must say that he and I were classmates at the Central University, and we used to sit alongside one another in the classrooms. We had had excellent, personal relations until the time when he appointed me secretary general of the Presidency, although I did not belong to the party. This appointment surprised many people. I never wish to discuss this matter again. However, I must point out that this difficult situation was resolved in September 1988 in Paris when he invited me to lunch. He made that honorable gesture for both of us. Also attending that luncheon, apart from the two of us, were Carmelo Lauria and Reinaldo Figueredo. Afterwards, he and I spent an hour and a half alone, talking with each other. As far as I am concerned, that matter is over and forgotten. It would be absurd for me, in order to express my resentment, to become something like the Count of Montecristo in an obsession of vengeance and to collect payment in settlement of an emotional account.

[EL NACIONAL] However, it would also be regrettable for us to have an obsequious attorney general, determined to prove the opposite.

[Escovar Salom] You are right. I will fully discharge the duties which the constitution assigns to me. In this respect I could agree or disagree with the president. I will be very independent in my duties. However, I should warn you that President Perez was not opposed to my candidacy, which the CEN [National Executive Committee] approved unanimously. After the lunch and the conversation which I have just described to you, our relations have been very easy and cordial. And recently, before I came back from Paris, we spoke with the greatest cordiality. I will perform my role as guardian of the law. If I disagree with the president, I will have to tell him. The attorney general, like the president, is elected for 5 years.

Suriname

Peace Talks With Brunswijk Gang Conclude

FL2007184789 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The government delegation and the delegation from the Brunswijk gang have on the third day of the peace discussions, yesterday, reached an agreement on broad perspectives about the [word indistinct] program for the reconstruction of the interior. It was decided that the arrangement to be made will be for the benefit of all the interior residents, both the Amerindians and the Bush Negros.

Yesterday, discussions were also held about the position of the so-called jungle commando (?Black Fire) Ronnie Brunswijk. On this subject there are differences of opinions between both delegations. During a press conference last Tuesday [18 July], the government wanted the terrorist gang to surrender its weapons. Brunswijk, however, stated that the weapons cannot be surrendered because of security reasons, among others.

The peace discussions, which started 3 days ago, ended in [name indistinct], French Guiana today. According to reporters in French Guiana, it is, however, to be expected that both parties will meet again at a later stage to complete the discussions.

Refugees Call on Negotiators To Guarantee Return

FL2007123789 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Surinamese government and rebel leaders holding peace talks in French Guiana have taken no action on a request by refugees for guarantees that would permit them to return home. Representatives of the refugees asked negotiators to agree to pull troops out of eastern Suriname.

President of the National Assembly said he would have to consult the government. Rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk asked for time to study the refugee proposals. Those peace talks are scheduled to end today.

Correction To Article on Guerrilla Talks

FL2007180989

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Parties Satisfied With Progress of Talks," published in the 21 July Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 72: column two, first paragraph, make sourceline read: Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 19 Jul 89. (correcting sourceline)